



A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug-trade.
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COLONIAL TRADE.

If there is one thing more certain than another regarding the future export trade of the United Kingdom, it is that the population of our Empire beyond the seas will be our best customers. The national statistics prove this, the imperialistic spirit maintains it, and it behoves manufacturers and merchants to encourage it. The encouragement of colonial trade has been one of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGISTS' strong points from the outset. Through our annual Colonial Issue we give an exceptional opportunity for advertisers to increase their business with the colonies. This issue will be on April 20, and, in addition to those who receive it weekly, it will be sent to all buyers of druggists' goods in India, Burmah, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Federated Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, China, Japan, and the West Indies. The Publisher will give any inquirer information regarding this important issue.

Summary.

THE INTER-PHARMACY FOOTBALL LEAGUE results are given on p. 466.

WE give fuller particulars of the magnesia ponderosa case this week (p. 486).

SPURIOUS RHATANY is figured and described by Mr. Prosper H. Marsden on p. 473.

MR. SWIFTE'S JUDGMENT in the photographic-poisons case in Dublin is printed on p. 486.

FORMULE for prescribing-specialties compiled by Victorian pharmacists are printed on p. 470.

PARTICULARS in regard to Welsbach mantles and alleged infringement thereof are given on p. 481.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has increased the duty on medicinal tinctures and alcohol (p. 495).

KODAK'S AGREEMENT has brought us a budget of opinions generally against the company's action (p. 482).

FURTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES are printed on p. 481, including particulars of the new Photographic Dealers' Association.

IMPRISONMENT is to be an alternative to the fine for Pharmacy-Act infringement in Scotland—so the Justiciary Court has decided (p. 485).

A PETERBOROUGH CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST has been fined under the Pharmacy Act for not entering the sale of Battle's vermin-killer (p. 485).

THE name of the seller of a poison, says Xrayser, is the trade-name; but the address should be the actual address at which the sale takes place (p. 477).

MR. GEORGE CADBURY has presented the village of Bournville to the Worcester County Council. Particulars, and a portrait of the donor, are given on p. 466.

THE nomination of pharmaceutical councillors is further discussed by Mr. Paterson (p. 490), by Xrayser, who sides with him (p. 477), and by ourselves on p. 479.

FULL PARTICULARS as to the Customs duties on pharmaceutical preparations and medicines at the chief ports of South Africa are given and commented upon on p. 480.

MERCURY-ointment has a commercial standard, according to Mr. Glyu Jones and the Chemists' Defence Association. A case at Canterbury is under consideration (p. 487).

PRUSSIC-ACID should not be sold, so the Coroner at Wolverhampton thinks, and he seems also to hold the idea that chemists and druggists are qualified dog-poisoners (p. 464).

MR. LORD GIFFORD has been selected by North East Lancashire as a candidate for the Pharmaceutical Council. Mr. Johnston, of Aberdeen, is retiring from the Council (p. 467).

ADRENALIN, B.P. extracts, the volumetric determination of phenol, and Alstonia barks were the subjects of the papers at the North British branch evening meeting this week (p. 483).

THE PHARMACY BILL is receiving a fair measure of support from provincial Associations (p. 474); Mr. Lord Gifford does not like it (p. 491). Mr. Newsholme had something to say about the Bill at Nottingham last week (p. 420).

INTERESTING TABLOID-REMINISCENCES were exhibited at the last meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, and diosphenol, the active principal of buchu, and a spurious ipocacuanha, were commented upon (p. 473).

IN THE ASH OF CARDAMOMS Messrs. Cowley and Catford have discovered cobalt, nickel, manganese, and iron, and they attribute the black ash to the formation of metallic phosphide. Professor Greenish's results are criticised (p. 472).

A DEPRESSED tone is still apparent on the drug and chemical markets. Quinine is inactive, and cheaper in second hands. Cubebs, menthol, and saffron are higher; while ergot, oil of lemon, cream of tartar, shellac, and isinglass are cheaper (p. 495).

MR. WM. DUNCAN, in a series of notes, reported on p. 474, shows that the B.P. acetic-acid test for turpentine requires revision, also the volumetric test for chloral hydrate, and he questions if syrup of codeine will keep without a preservative (p. 483).

THE EARLY-CLOSING COMMITTEE of the House of Lords is now taking evidence. We have issued a circular to local pharmaceutical associations in connection with the subject, which is referred to on p. 248. The Western Chemists' Association oppose the Bill (p. 475).

English News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

A new trial has been granted in the case of Kodak (Limited) v. McNair, reported in our last issue, page 447.

At Wellington (Somerset) County Court on March 18, Mr. Walter Gregory, chemist and druggist, recovered 2*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* from a faunton hotel-keeper for goods supplied.

In a return of members' attendances for the past three years at the meetings of the Guisborough Board of Guardians the list is headed by Mr. James Crosby Robson, pharmaceutical chemist.

The Wolverhampton Board of Guardians have decided to appoint a qualified dispenser for the Union at a salary of 130*l.* per annum, who will be required to assist the medical officer in clerical work.

On March 14 burglars entered Messrs. Boots' shop in Narrow Street, Peterborough, and broke open the cash-drawer; but the cash had been deposited in the safe, and the intruders only got a silver fish-knife.

A Bishop Auckland youth has been fined 7*s.* 6*d.* for breaking a lemonade-bottle, valued at 3*d.*, by throwing stones at it on the public highway. The proceedings were instituted by the Northumberland and Durham Bottle Exchange Association.

The President of the Medical Herbalists' Protection Association of Great Britain (Mr. C. H. Hassall, of Farnworth) has received an acknowledgment from the Home Office, in reply to a loyal message sent to the King by the members of the Association.

At a meeting of the Health Committee of the Liverpool City Council last week the Medical Officer of Health stated that a large number of samples of mineral waters had been analysed for arsenic or other deleterious ingredients, and had in every case been found pure.

A Bradford herbalist and botanical-beer brewer, Robert McCulloch, brought an unsuccessful action for slander against a Halifax trader at West Riding Assizes on March 12. Plaintiff alleged that defendant had slandered his financial ability and the quality of his beer.

In the case of Moore v. Day's Metropolitan Drug Company, heard in the King's Bench Division by Mr. Justice Bucknill and a common jury (see *C. & D.* March 16, page 447), the parties consented to take the verdict of the majority of the jury—viz., an award to the plaintiff of 22*l.* 10*s.* damages.

Sequah was sued last week by the Alcester Corn Exchange Company for 2*l.* 16*s.* for the hire of the Corn Exchange. Sequah counterclaimed for 20*l.* 18*s.*, compensation for breach of agreement. The Judge found for the plaintiffs for 2*l.* 16*s.*, and for Sequah for 2*l.* 10*s.*, without costs on either side.

Sterilised-milk depôts have been established by the Corporation of Liverpool. The charge is 1*s.* 2*d.* per week for nine feeds for twenty-four hours. The milk is tested, sterilised, and humanised at the depôt, the bottles are hermetically sealed, and not opened until put into the cot alongside the infant.

The Ladies' Health Society at Ashton-under-Lyne have, during a year's work, given out 24 cwt. of disinfectant-powder, and sold 29 cwt. of carbolic soap at 2*d.* per lb., in addition to distributing and explaining leaflets on the cure and prevention of various diseases, and giving instructions as to the feeding of infants.

At Yarmouth Bankruptcy Court on March 18, John Hindle, whose liabilities were returned at 231*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, with assets *nil*, told the Official Receiver that he carried on a chemist's business at Oulton Broad for several years, and

ultimately disposed of it for 140*l.* When his wife died she left him 1,000*l.* worth of property, which he sold, and started smack-owning; but his latest venture was not a success.

Contracts.

The following contracts with public bodies have recently been effected:—

Bickenham Urban District Council.—Carbolic soap, Mr. E. W. Rutley; carbolic acid, Jeyes' Disinfectant Company Sanitas, the Sanitas Company.

Boston Union.—Mr. S. J. Hurst, chemist to the workhouse. Brandon Urban Council.—Mr. W. Barker, West Cornforth, Government disinfectant-fluid, 11*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; carbolic oil, 1*s.* 6*d.* per gal. Messrs. Greenwell & Son, Sanitas soap, 29*s.* per cwt.; Sanitas fluid, 10*s.* per dozen; Condy's fluid, 10*s.* 6*d.* per dozen bottles (half-pints).

Cambridge Union.—Mr. E. Field, for drugs.

Crewe Union.—Mr. J. W. Huke, chemist and druggist, Chester, for drugs.

Dartford Union.—Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Stevenson, Jewry Street, E.C., for drugs; and Mr. W. T. Tucker, chemist and druggist, Dartford, for disinfectants.

Depwade Union.—Mr. C. Wood, chemist and druggist, Harleston, for trusses.

East Ashford Union.—Ashford Co-operative Society, for invalid bovril at 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb., arrowroot at 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and night-lights at 4*s.* 3*d.* per dozen boxes.

Exeter Corporation of the Poor.—Messrs. Holman, Ham & Co., chemists, for drugs.

Malling Union.—Mr. W. Stedman, chemist and druggist West Malling, for drugs.

Newport (Mon.) Union.—Messrs. Ferris & Co., Union Street, Bristol, for drugs; Messrs. Phillips & Sons, chemists, Commercial Street, Newport, surgical dressings.

St. Albans Union.—Mr. Ernest Fisher, pharmaceutical chemist, for drugs.

St. Olave (Southwark) Board of Guardians.—Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., 12 and 16 Coleman Street, E.C., for druggists' sundries at 17 per cent. under schedule prices.

Southampton Union.—Messrs. Randall & Son, for drugs.

Steyning Union.—Mr. W. F. Mitchell, Worthing, for soda-water in syphons. Mr. J. J. Whitwell, New Shoreham, for Bengel's food, Brand's essence, borax, crushed linseed, McDougall's carbolic soap, and Culvert's specialities.

Swaftmouth Union.—Mr. G. E. Knight, for drugs; Jeyes' Sanitary Company, for disinfectants.

Yarmouth Union.—Mr. T. J. Woodcock, chemist and druggist, for drugs and sundries; drugs at 10 per cent. discount from list-prices; cod-liver oil, at 5*s.* per gal. indoor, and at 8*d.* per pint for the outdoor poor; crushed linseed meal, 18*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; olive oil, 5*s.* 6*d.* per gal.; sweet oil at 3*s.* per gal.; single trusses at 1*s.* 6*d.* each, and double trusses at 2*s.* each.

The Sale of Poisons.

On March 15, at an inquest held at Wolverhampton on the body of a young lady named Bradburn, who had committed suicide with prussic acid, evidence was given by, amongst others, Mr. Joseph Alban Caswell, chemist and druggist, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. At the request of the Coroner Mr. Caswell produced his poisons-book, but said that he had not sold Miss Bradburn any poison necessitating an entry. He had sold her a mixture of chloral on March 1. The young lady, whom he knew by sight, came into his shop and asked for some chloral for sleeplessness. She said a medical friend had advised her to take it, and witness gave her a bottle containing 40 gr. of chloral, to be taken in four doses. The following colloquy between Coroner and chemist then took place:—

What is a fatal dose of chloral hydrate?—I cannot give you a "fatal dose," sir.

You cannot?—No, sir. I can only say what doctors have told me.

Then you have no special knowledge of chloral, or its action?—I have knowledge of its composition in the Pharmacopoeia.

Did not you think it a dangerous thing for you, Mr. Caswell, to be prescribing hydrate of chloral—without the instructions of a medical man—to a stranger, a young girl?—Sir, I did not prescribe the thing.

I beg your pardon.

Mr. Willcock (Coroner) next asked witness if he did not think

the better course would have been to sell the chloral hydrate only by doctor's prescription.

Witness admitted that would have been the wiser course.

Mr. Willcock (Coroner) then said: I want to know how you can explain giving a girl chloral when you yourself do not know what is a fatal dose.

Witness said he knew the maximum dose.

That is, if she takes only what you prescribe here (pointing to the label on the bottle) she is safe? Suppose she took two of your doses, would she be wrong then?—No, sir, she would not.

Don't you think when you sell chloral it should be entered in the poisons-book?

Witness replied that it was in the second part of the schedule.

Mr. Ernest Edward Hall, chemist and druggist, Newbridge, deposed to selling to deceased 2 dr. of prussic acid on March 5, 1900, and again on December 17, 1900, he sold her 3 dr. of prussic acid. He had complied with all the requirements of the Pharmacy Acts in effecting the sale. On the first occasion deceased said she wanted the poison to kill a cat, and the second time she wanted to poison a dog. Before he supplied the poison deceased told him that she had a man on the premises who would destroy the animal. He first suggested sending an assistant to poison the animals. Asked if he did not think it would be wise to refuse to serve anyone with poi-on when such assistance was refused, witness replied that he saw no reason to doubt Miss Bradburn's good faith, and he gave directions for any of the poison that was left to be destroyed.

The Coroner eventually informed Mr. Hall that since he had opened the inquest he had been making inquiries amongst the chemists of the town, and found that the invariable rule was that if anyone came for poison to destroy a dog, a request was made to bring the animal down to the shop, or an offer was made to send someone to administer the poison. If neither offer was accepted an excuse was made why the poison should not be supplied. Mr. Hall replied that he had done that many a time himself, but the girl came in such good faith that he thought there was no necessity.

A verdict of suicide from prussic-acid poisoning was returned.

Arsenical Poisoning.

The Royal Commission again met at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Friday, March 15, when a statement was handed in on behalf of Messrs. Nicholson, of Leeds, with the request that it should not be made public until the legal proceedings with Bostock's were concluded. Dr. F. W. Tunnicliffe, Professor of Materia Medica in King's College, London, gave evidence respecting the discovery by Dr. Rosenheim and himself of selenium in sulphuric acid. While admitting that the main part of the recent trouble from beer has been due to arsenic, he said selenium has also played a part. His evidence, as a whole, was practically a repetition of the paper by him and Dr. Rosenheim, of which an abstract was printed in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of February 16, page 285. Dr. A. P. Luff then gave evidence. It will be remembered that he was a member of the Expert Commission of the Manchester Brewers' Central Association. His evidence referred to the symptoms of neuritis, and he stated that the wasting of the patients was not due in his opinion to selenious acid. He had also reason to believe that selenium was absent from the beer samples he had tested. Speaking of the testing for arsenic, he said that Reinsch's test detects one part by weight in one-and-a-half million parts of beer—that is, $\frac{1}{1500000}$ gr. in a gallon.

The Doctor's Dispenser.

At an inquiry held on March 16, at Hackey, respecting the death of Dorothy Mary Sams, aged 8 months, the mother said the child fell on its head, became sick and ill, and she took her to Dr. Marrett's surgery, in Southgate Road, where the dispenser saw the infant, and gave her a bottle of medicine. Witness thought he was a doctor. Next day Dr. Marrett himself saw the child, and gave no hope for its recovery. It died a few days after. George Cummings, dispenser to Dr. Marrett, said the mother told him the child was suffering from constipation, so, as the doctor was out, he gave her a bottle of medicine. The Coroner: You did not tell her you were not a doctor? No. It was going against Dr. Marrett's rule for me to prescribe. He had warned me not to. Dr. Charles Ayton Marrett said the autopsy showed death

to be due to inflammation of the covering of the brain. He gave his dispenser instructions not to prescribe. Eventually the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding a rider to the effect that the dispenser should not have been allowed to give medicine without some qualified man being there to see what he gave.

Coroner and Jury on Labelling.

An inquest was held at Burgess Hill (Sussex), on March 12, touching the death of Mr. H. D. Frape, solicitor, who had taken a dose of chloral and bromide of potassium whilst suffering from the effects of influenza. Dr. Fielden said deceased had taken between 60 and 90 gr. of the mixture, which was in concentrated form, and he attributed death to the weak and fatty condition of the heart accelerated by the sleeping-draught. There was no direction as to the dose of the draught to be taken on the bottle, which was labelled "Poison." Several jurymen remarked on the dangerous practice of chemists dispensing such drugs, and the Coroner added that it was very dangerous and reprehensible. He also pointed out that the original prescription gave the drugs in a diluted form, but deceased had apparently obtained it concentrated. The chemists had looked upon him as a regular customer, and protected themselves by putting a poison-label on the bottle. Although the absence of directions had nothing to do with this particular case, it was a wrong practice, and one that chemists ought not to adopt. Death from misadventure was the verdict.

The Doubting Doctor.

The Isle of Wight Coroner held an inquest at the Granville Inn, Cowes, on March 16, relating to the death of Mary Ann Flux, aged 74. It was stated that before the unexpected death of deceased medicine had been administered to her, and that Dr. L. P. Gibson who was called in just before death, had declined to give a certificate. He had stated that he smelt opium in the bottle, and that, he thought, to be the worst thing deceased could take in her case. She was suffering from bronchitis and was in a drowsy state. Mr. A. E. Beken, chemist and druggist, said he sold the medicine to a nurse, but she did not say whom it was for. He sold her a mixture consisting of 40 drops each of the oils of peppermint and aniseed, and of laudanum, and 2 dr. of spirit of ether. Three-fourths of a teaspoonful of that mixture was to be put into $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water. Dr. Gibson expressed himself satisfied that death was due to bronchitis, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

Medical Officers Shy.

Stroud Board of Guardians is in need of a medical officer, but cannot get any applications for the post. At a meeting of the Board on March 15 Mr. S. J. Coley, chemist and druggist, who is one of the Guardians, suggested that the Board should offer a fixed salary and allow a fixed charge for drugs and medicines. The Chairman thought such a course would not be an incentive to the medical officers to prescribe medicines. A committee had already discussed the point, and had come to the conclusion that owing to the wide extent of the union it would be impossible to supply drugs and medicines as suggested. Mr. Coley argued that a scale might easily be drawn up for the medicines, and the doctors would feel that they were not losing by the quantity of medicine supplied, but no action was taken in the matter.

The Dispenser Remanded.

At West London Police Court on March 18, Robert Yates Warrington, described as a dispenser, was remanded on a charge of stealing a brass vase and brass bowl, value 10s., from the house of Dr. Edwin London, in Holland Park Avenue, W. Prisoner called and requested to see the doctor, who was not at home. He was shown into a room and supplied with writing-materials, as he said he wanted to write a letter. After he left the vase and bowl were missed, and when arrested they were found in his possession. There have been complaints of robberies of a similar nature for some time past, and a number of pawnbrokers' duplicates relating to umbrellas, walking-sticks, surgical instruments, and other articles were found in the possession of the prisoner.

Drugs in Monmouth.

The public analyst for Monmouthshire (Mr. G. R. Thompson), in his quarterly report, states that in the 108 samples received for analysis were included six samples of baking-powder, three of egg-powder, and one each of camphorated oil, zinc ointment, and compound liquorice-powder. He had to report adversely upon two samples of baking-powder and one of egg-powder, as containing potash alum varying from 13 to 19½ per cent., but owing to a recent case bearing upon the division of such articles having been dismissed upon the ground of informality, the proceedings had to be abandoned. As he believed the County Council Association intended discussing this matter of the division of samples, he trusted some rearrangement of the Act might be made, as under the existing regulations the working of the Act was seriously hampered. The zinc-ointment sample was over 40 per cent. deficient in zinc oxide.

Fire.

On March 16 a disastrous fire broke out at the works of Messrs. W. C. Bacon & Co., West Ham Chemical-works, Canning Street, West Ham. The outbreak was discovered by some workmen who were employed on the first floor of the building, who stated that the cause of the fire was due to some nitrate of soda in bags becoming ignited. The flames quickly spread, and it took several hours' work on the part of several fire-brigades to get the flames under control, and even then the building was completely consumed. At one time it looked as though the adjoining works of Messrs. Berk & Co., chemical-manufacturers, would catch, but the fire-engine and appliances from Messrs. T. Tyrer & Co.'s works were promptly brought into action before the brigade got to work. The fire is particularly unfortunate as the West Ham Works, being almost the only makers in London of sulphuric acid from brimstone direct, were, in consequence of the arsenic-in-beer scare, more than full of orders for arsenic-free acid. Considerable damage occurred to Messrs. Berk's buildings.

Birmingham News.

The Health Committee have opened Yardley Wood Hospital for the reception and treatment of typhoid-fever patients; no fewer than 100 cases having been notified since the year began.

The words "breakable" and "unbreakable" when applied to glass measures must not be taken too literally. A traveller showing some of these to a brother chip, dropped one—a half-pint—on the floor to prove his contention, and was much vexed to find that it belied the reputation he had given of it.

Mr. George Cadbury has given 180,000*l.* to the county of Worcester in the shape of the village called Bournville.



MR. GEORGE CADBURY.

This, as *C. & D.* readers doubtless know, is the charming place which has grown up around Messrs. Cadbury Brothers' cocoa-factory in the suburbs of Birmingham. The estate consists of about 416 acres. Of this Mr. Cadbury has given 330 acres to start his workmen's home colony. The estate thus founded he has placed under the "Bournville Village Trust." A tenth of the total area is to be kept as an open space or recreation-park. Allotments are also provided for, and not more than a fifteenth shall be used for factories, if any. The remainder of the estate is to be laid out for cottages.

Already about a third of Bournville has been laid out, and 370 cottages built. Of these 143 have been sold at the cost-price on leases for 999 years. The remainder and the necessary shops are let to weekly tenants at low rents.

Soda-water Dangers.

Alderman Dr. Commons, of the Liverpool City Council, is agitated on the question of pure mineral waters. The sub-

ject arose at a recent meeting of the Council, on the ratification of a contract for the supply of soda-water to the hospital. Dr. Commons observed that people were excited about arsenical contamination from the sulphuric acid used in beer-manufacture, and were evidently not aware that, taking the proportions of the liquids employed, there was ten times as much sulphuric acid employed in the manufacture of soda-water as of beer. The acid which was the distinguishing part of soda-water was *n.a.d.e.*, he said, as a rule, by a chemical manipulation of sulphuric acid and carbonate of soda, and there was no guarantee whatever that the sulphuric acid used was not the very worst sort in the market, and that it might not contain five times as much arsenic as that used in the manufacture of beer from glucose. He wanted to know if there had been any chemical analysis or expert opinion taken in determining which soda-water was to be chosen for the use of the hospital. There was also the further possibility of lead-poisoning getting into soda-water if metallic instead of porcelain tubes were used in the manufacture of the product. Dr. Bligh advocated the employment of hygienic syphons, but an amendment to refer back the matter under discussion was lost. [See also page 464.]

Inter-Pharmacy Football League.

The League competition has now been brought to a conclusion. The London College come out winners, but the "Square" team ran them very closely for first place, as will be seen from the figures given below of the matches played by the first three teams in the competition:—

Team	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
London	4	2	—	10
Square	4	1	1	9
Metros.	2	1	2	5
Muter's	—	—	—	—

The championship of the League carries with it the cup presented by Mr. Watson Will, Principal of the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy.

Exeter Pharmacy School.

On March 16 at the Albert Memorial College, Exeter, to which is attached the pharmacy classes conducted by Mr. Alan H. Ware, pharmaceutical chemist, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese presented the prizes won by successful students. The prize offered to senior pharmaceutical students by Messrs. H. Gadd, J.P., and J. Hinton Lake, was taken by Charles B. Delves, and the prize for elementary chemistry, given by Messrs. Holman, Ham & Co., was awarded to Norman R. Hilton. The Principal of the College (Mr. A. W. Clayden, M.A.), in his report, said the percentage of advanced certificates had risen from 16.4 to 17.1, in spite of the hostile operation of the new rules which require advanced students to have passed the elementary stage, and the unwillingness of the students themselves to sit for the examination when their object-study was to pass the tests imposed by some other body, such as the Pharmaceutical Society. Messrs. C. B. Delves and T. N. Eastland had passed the Minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society direct from the College.

The Week's Poisonings.

Fifteen fatalities from poisons are reported as having occurred since our last issue. The poisons employed are all scheduled and orthodox, with the exception perhaps of Cuff's fly-scab and mange oil, which was taken by a shepherd at Horsenden, and which was stated at the inquest to contain perchloride of mercury. Five deaths were caused by carbolic acid, three by laudanum, two were due to chloroform, two to strychnine, and one each to prussic acid and chloral.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE.—Directions on the box of an incandescent mantle, made in Germany:—"Put the mantle carefully on the burner place the chimney on it and light it as usually above. After having burnt a short time the mantle is adopting to the flame and is for this extraordinary durable."

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Drug Contracts.

The Guardians of the Kinsale Union have accepted the tenders of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, for medicines, and the Medical Requisites Company, Cork, for surgical appliances.

The Guardians of the Ballymahon Union have given the contract for medicines to Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Dublin, and the contract for the supply of surgical appliances to the Medical Supply Association.

Strychnine-suicide.

A woman named Helen Carpenter, housekeeper to Dr. Adams, of Garvagh, co. Antrim, who was on notice to leave, took strychnine, and, in spite of the doctor's efforts, died shortly afterwards.

Dispenser Appointment.

The Guardians of the South Dublin Union have resolved to advertise for an apothecary or pharmaceutical chemist as dispenser for the Donnybrook dispensary. There is some doubt as to whether the L.G.B. will sanction the proposed salary of 120% a year.

Turpentine Fatality.

On March 16 a servant in the employment of Mr. Josiah Peel, chemist and druggist, Armagh, was engaged in melting beeswax and turpentine for use on the parlour floor. The turpentine caught fire and set the girl's apron alight, the girl being so seriously burnt that she died in the Armagh Infirmary the same evening.

The S.V.M. Trouble.

In connection with certain recent cases of violent assault in Dublin, a Dublin Metropolitan Police-surgeon states that these are mainly due to the increasing consumption of a drink known as "spunk"—a mixture of methylated spirit, fusel oil, and sulphuric acid. Its effect is that of temporary insanity, the drinker, in many cases, simply running amuck.

The Drug-habit.

An inquest was held on March 14 at Roscommon Workhouse on the body of W. J. O'Brien. Deceased was a medical man, but owing to reduced circumstance and failing health had been an inmate of the workhouse infirmary for the last eighteen months. The evidence showed that he had been in the habit of taking opium, morphine, and strychnine, and that an overdose of the latter was probably responsible for death.

The Coming Conference.

We understand that the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland has been approached unofficially in regard to the entertainment of the British Pharmaceutical Conference during the visit to Dublin, and the Governors and Court have regretfully come to the conclusion that they cannot possibly carry out an entertainment in a manner commensurate with the position of the Conference. They have contributed handsomely to the Entertainment Fund promoted by local pharmacists.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

One Councillor Wanted.

Mr. Johnston, of Aberdeen, is not seeking re-election to the Pharmaceutical Council. So far the names of half-a-dozen members of the Society, chiefly in Edinburgh and Glasgow, have been mentioned as his successor, and several have been nominated. Without the asterisk none may get

in. Formerly a Scotch councillor rarely retired on the eve of a poll, but between times, so that his seat would be secure for a compatriot.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club.

The ninth annual meeting of the Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club was held on March 18, in the Pharmaceutical Society's house, 36 York Place. Mr. G. H. C. Rowland, President of the Club, occupied the chair. Satisfactory reports were delivered upon the various sections of the Club, and the Treasurer reported a substantial credit balance, notwithstanding an expenditure of about 90%. The Club membership now stands at 102, being an increase of seven over the previous season. The football competition and athletic sports will be held about May 21. The sum of 17. 1s. was voted to the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society. The following office-bearers were elected for next season:—Honorary President, Adam Gibson, F.C.S.; President, G. H. C. Rowland; Vice-President, A. R. Smith; Hon. Secretary, D. S. Napier, Ruby Villa, Sciennes Gardens; Assistant Secretary, John Aikman; Hon. Treasurer, J. P. Gibb; Committee, A. C. Aitken, A. G. Paterson, Geo. Somerville, W. C. Taylor, A. W. Traill, Harry Smith, and W. Simpson.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

FATAL HAIR-DYE.—As the result of experiments made at the St. Louis Hospital, Dr. Laborde states that a number of patients who were suffering from a mysterious and unknown disease have been proved to be the victims of the use of a deleterious hair-dye.

PERSULPHATE OF SODA AS AN APPETISER.—According to Dr. Albert Robin, persulphate of soda is a powerful stimulant to the appetite. The dose he recommends in a paper read by him at a recent meeting of the Paris Society of Therapeutics is in the proportion of 2 grammes to 300 grammes of water, one tablespoonful to be taken before meals.

DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS.—MM. Robin and Binet communicated to the Academy of Sciences this week a means of forming an early diagnosis of tuberculosis. It seems to depend upon the chemistry of respiration, as they find that the absorption of oxygen, and the exchanges of gases consequent thereupon, is much more active in subjects inclined to tuberculosis than in healthy persons.

THE DENTIST'S DIVORCE SUIT.—M. Roussel, the Paris dentist whose application to cancel his marriage with Mrs. Harrison, an English widow, and at one time his assistant, has occupied several lengthy sittings at the Paris Law Courts, and has now been settled. The plaintiff's case amounted to the statement that as the wedding took place in England it was not binding in France, and that is the decision of the Court.

AGAINST SEA-SICKNESS.—We have not yet arrived exactly at insurance against sea-sickness, but a league exists in Paris whose object is to slay this unfeeling monster who makes sea-travelling to some a time of suffering and torture, horrid to contemplate. This league is a sworn enemy of *mal-de-mer*, and its object is to proceed against it in a scientific manner and make it impossible for it to trouble even the most nervous and predisposed of those who go down to the sea in ships. The league has its offices at 82 Boulevard Port Royal, Paris, and its programme includes the desire to experiment on a couple of hundred soldiers subject to sea-sickness; one hundred will be subjected to one treatment, and the second hundred to another, and it is contended that definite conclusions and irrefutable arguments could be drawn from such experiments.

INSPECTION OF PHARMACIES.—It is an old quarrel, that of the French pharmacists against the presence of medical officers in the Commissions of Inspection which periodically visit the pharmacies. It has just been resuscitated in the Arrondissement of Saint-Lo. A pharmacist in that place (M. Bigot) was prosecuted recently for the sale of secret remedies on the complaint of Saint-Lo Medical Syndicate.

M. Bigot admitted that his speciality was technically illegal, but contended that it was not more so than other specialities. A doctor named Lhomond, acting as Inspector of Pharmacies, declared that the product of M. Bigot was badly prepared, and, in a report, added that it would be impossible to imagine the degree of disorder and confusion which reigned in pharmacies. He added that this neglect in the observance of pharmaceutical rules and etiquette explained recent frequency of poisoning-cases. He said also that he was convinced that a number of undiscovered cases of poisoning occurred every day as the result of the non-observance of the rules. This grave charge of Dr. Lhomond has not been allowed to rest, and the Pharmaceutical Syndicate of the Channel has decided, whilst protesting against the assertions of the Inspector towards a profession as honourable as that of pharmacy, to demand the removal of Dr. Lhomond's name from the list of inspectors. In Saint-Lo it has been suggested that pharmacists combine and refuse to make up Dr. Lhomond's prescriptions.

APATHY AMONGST PHARMACISTS.—A loud cry is echoed in the last number of the official organ of the pharmacists of the south-east of France in regard to the position of French pharmacy. M. Favier is the new President of the South-East Federation (which numbers 800 members), and he inveighs cogently against the apathy which, he says, renders sterile all efforts to obtain recognition for and improvement in the position of the pharmacist. If the pharmacists have no worthy place in the social state, he says, and if the public very frequently confound high-class grocery-stores (*épicerie de luxe*) with pharmacies, the fault rests with the pharmacists alone. M. Favier adds that the specialists, the grocers who vend pharmaceutical specialities, pride themselves upon having given an added lustre to the profession. The "speciality" was the commencement of the evil to the pharmaceutical profession, and is its most deadly foe to-day. He calls upon pharmaciens to unite, and by interesting themselves in questions pertaining to their profession to step into the arena against the hydra-headed "speciality." The organisations of the profession want support in money and numbers, and when once the great body of pharmacists know what a mighty instrument in their hands their Associations are, then good results will quickly follow. The syndicates of the working classes are the greatest and most effective in France. That is simply because they breathe of life and vitality, and force the public powers to listen. Pharmacists, M. Favier contends, must do what the working-classes do, for in that alone lies any hope of salvation.

A MICROBE-CATCHER.—On visiting a Paris theatre just now one may sometimes be startled by a loud buzzing noise emanating from one of the boxes during the *entr'acte*. Inquiry will show that the ominous sound emanates from an apparatus invented by Dr. Hanriot for catching microbes. This is not merely a bit of humour, for the doctor is a member of the Academy of Medicine and of the Council of Hygiene. His object is to demonstrate the degree of danger to playgoers likely to arise from microbes found in Paris theatres and music-halls during the performances. His researches are said to have commenced early last year, but were suspended while the Exhibition was open in order to avoid the risk of adding a microbe scare to the other attractions of the great show. It transpires that theatre-managers show a marked tendency to discourage Dr. Hanriot's experiments, and even try to stop them. He therefore generally arrives in the middle of a performance, and at the next interval sets his instrument going in the box where his assistants are already installed. The principal duty of the latter is to keep up an animated and loud conversation to try and drown the noise made by the machine. Pending the publication of the full results of his experiments, the doctor has issued a short report laying stress on the importance of allowing the sun to penetrate in places of amusement. He agrees with the Italian proverb that "Every house requires either the sun or the doctor." His principal suggestions for improving the sanitary condition of theatres are the following:—Varnished woodwork that can be easily cleaned with damp dusters; linoleum-flooring that can be washed, strewn with fine gravel to be swept up daily; better ventilation from natural sources, and large windows admitting the sun; the chairs to be covered with leather instead of velvet, and the stage-curtain to be of other material than cloth.

South African News.

(From our Colonial Correspondents.)

THEFT.—At the Police Court, Wynberg, recently a coloured youth was bound over for stealing a number of patent-medicines, value 1*l*., the property of Messrs. Lennon (Limited), by whom he was employed as a messenger.

COLONIAL PHARMACY BOARD.—At the first meeting of the new Cape Colonial Board, on February 14, Mr. J. A. Mathew (senior partner of Messrs. Heynes, Mathew & Co., Cape Town) was re-elected President. The other members of the Board are Messrs. A. Walsh, George Darrol, W. H. Helmore, F. W. C. Thomas, W. K. Mager, and Dr. C. F. K. Murray.

THE CAPE TOWN "OWL" for the week ending February 22 presents the *Owl* cake (according to its jocular custom) to Dr. Edington, the Government bacteriologist, for the reason that he was the last person in the community to discover the existence of plague in Cape Town, and that his official recognition of the fact was published after two men had died and fifteen were laid up with the disease. This is the *Owl's* playful reference to the report of the bacteriological examination of the plague virus which we mentioned in our last issue.

PERSONAL.—Mr. J. H. Dinwoodie, chemist and druggist, Johannesburg, has received a permit from the High Commissioner to proceed at once to Pretoria and take up an official position under the new Government. He has been attached to the R.A.M.C. since the outbreak of hostilities. Messrs. Corry & Co., chemists and druggists, have resumed business at 11 Main Road, Fordsburg. Mr. H. Trembath, of Johannesburg, has left Cape Town on special pass for Johannesburg. Mr. Trembath goes to have a look at his business-premises—the first chance he has had since the commencement of hostilities.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS AT CAPE TOWN are well timed. In addition to the destruction of rats and mice, rigorous house-to-house inspection in the infected zone is carried out systematically. The most useful disinfectants recommended by Professor W. J. Simpson to the Advisory Board are chloride of lime, corrosive sublimate, and carbolic acid. He further suggests inoculation with Haffkine's prophylactic, which he found very efficacious in Bombay, and which had since received high praise from the Plague Commission sent out to India from England. The prophylactic is not an absolute protection, but diminishes the chances of attack immensely, and reduces the chances of death.

PRESCRIBING CHEMISTS AND DOCTORS.—Referring to the controversy which has occupied so much space in some of the English journals recently concerning prescribing chemists and dispensing doctors, the *Cape Daily Telegraph* points out the impossibility of drawing a defined line that would show where the medical man must leave off and the chemist begin. Any fixed rule would meet with hourly infractions.

Even if adhered to in towns it could not be applied to the country. There are numerous instances where there are two surgeons in practice in the district and no chemist's shop. What is to be done? Either the doctor must dispense his own prescription or the patient must go over to the majority. The latter alternative would be monstrous, and the doctor dispenses and probably a life is saved.

On the other hand it is pointed out that there is a great deal to be said in favour of a chemist telling a labouring man's wife what is good for the ailment of her sick child, compounding a remedy for the complaint, and remaining true to his calling, as no chemist in the colony would dare to prescribe in a case where the physician or surgeon was imperatively needed. From an unprofessional point of view the *Telegraph* thinks the matter is one the public will decide because in cases of urgency the public interest must stand above professional privilege or trade custom.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF CAPE COLONY.

The annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony was held on Friday, February 14, at 8 P.M., the President (Mr. F. W. C. Thomas) in the chair.

Previous to introducing the business of the evening the President referred in sympathetic terms to the great loss the nation had sustained through the death of Queen Victoria. Something, he thought, should be done by the Society to express the sorrows and deep-felt sympathy with the bereaved Royal Family, and it was resolved that a vote of condolence be forwarded to the Royal Family, and of loyalty to his Majesty the King, through his Excellency the Governor (Sir Alfred Milner).

The Secretary's report showed that the total number of members on the roll is seventy-six, but even this figure leaves much to be desired. The financial position of the Society is hopeful, being somewhat better than the preceding year. Three members left them during the year, and in the month of June the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Fick), who had rendered them very valuable service, also resigned. It was unanimously resolved that he should not be allowed to retire without due acknowledgment of the Society's appreciation, and a presentation which took the form of a piece of plate was made to Mr. Fick in August last at the general meeting. The report emphasised the lack of interest shown by ordinary members as well as Council members in the affairs of the Society, and reminded them that one Council meeting had to be adjourned because a quorum could not be formed. Seven Council and six ordinary meetings had been held in the twelve months, the average attendance at the former being under seven, and at the latter nine only.

The report having been adopted the President proceeded to deliver the

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

I have great pleasure in addressing you on the occasion of the annual general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony. As our Secretary has dealt in his report with the financial state of the Society, which I consider very satisfactory, I need not dwell upon that point. The membership, which has been somewhat changeable from various causes, is, on the whole, fairly gratifying, but I would be pleased to see it increased during the ensuing year, as in fact, I feel sure it will when the Colony is again settled and business once more resumes its normal state. During the year there have been several prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act, but only one affected members of our Society directly. I refer to the Gregory's powder cases of Messrs. Vogelgezang, Cameron, and Hamilton, and Slages, which were watched and defended by the solicitors of our Society. The cases did not possess any special features, and the prosecution was successful in one case only; the two other prosecutions in which the Society interested herself only, were promptly dismissed.

In May last we had the honour of entertaining Mr. Martindale, the then President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, at a complimentary dinner given in his favour. Unfortunately, prevented through ill-health, I was unable to be present, but from what I gathered the entertainment proved a most successful event. Mr. Martindale expressed great pleasure at his reception by Cape pharmacists, and I venture to hope that this gentleman, one of the leading pharmaceutical chemists of the British Empire, will always look back with pleasant thoughts upon his association with Cape pharmacists. I regret to have to mention that our late Vice-President, Mr. Jones, resigned his position in July last, and although a deputation appointed by the Council waited upon him to ask him to reconsider his decision, he did not, to the great regret of the whole Council and members, feel inclined to do so. The triennial election of the members for the Colonial Pharmacy Board found the Society's nominees without opposition, and therefore elected.

At special general meetings of the Society several very interesting and instructive papers have been read and discussed, but the attendance on these occasions has been very disheartening to President, Council, and more particularly to the gentlemen responsible for the lectures, and I hope that the members will not during the ensuing year show the same indifference in the Society's movements as has been characterised in last year's work. Paying the subscriptions is all very well, but we want not only the monetary support of the members to keep the mill going, but their presence, which is just as essential to the progress and well being of the Society. I remember on the occasion of our first annual meeting, our former worthy President, in his most able address, urged upon the members the necessity for loyalty, fraternity, and scientific study, but, I regret to say, his words did not make a very lasting impression, if we have to judge from the attendance at meetings. Take the first subject of his motto—loyalty. This is not contained solely in paying the yearly subscription, but demands a personal interest to be taken by every individual member for the social and scientific development of our Society, otherwise I hardly think he can be termed a loyal member. Whilst so far as fraternity is concerned, that ought to be, if not the chief aim of our Society, certainly one of the aims. Scientific

study.—This was not appreciated, as I remarked before on the occasion when papers were read—papers, gentlemen, of the greatest interest to all of us. How many members put in an appearance? About a dozen, and on two occasions even fewer. It was most disheartening. What encouragement is given to the Council for arranging such lectures, and what to the lecturers who are only too pleased to aid the Society? What man will spend hours and hours studying his subject and then deliver it to perhaps a dozen hearers. It is unreasonable to expect it, and I trust that our future meetings will not only be better attended, but whatever discussion arises, no matter upon what subject, if of interest to pharmacy, either from a scientific or commercial point of view, members will be present and freely express their opinion.

In concluding my address, allow me to thank all members who have in any way interested themselves in the welfare of our Society and have cordially supported the chair. I wish all of you a most happy and prosperous time during that future part of the new century which may be allotted to us.

The President's address was well received, and on the motion of Mr. J. A. Mathew, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded unanimously.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The following are the office bearers and Council members elected:—President, Mr. J. A. Mathew; Vice-Presidents, Mr. F. W. C. Thomas and Mr. George Darrol; Council members, Messrs. A. H. Mathew, M. A. L. Pothill, Rivet, W. Fick, W. Jeffreys, W. H. Helmore, C. E. Gardner, J. S. North; Secretary, Mr. F. Nisbet; auditors, Messrs. Fick and Jeffreys.

Mr. W. K. Mager subsequently spoke on the necessity for more unity amongst chemists for their common good, and a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, which Mr. Thomas happily acknowledged, brought the meeting to a close.

THE R.A.M.C. IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(From a Civil Compounder.)

AT PRETORIA dysentery is very prevalent just now, but enteric is less virulent in form in many cases. The hospitals are kept full in spite of frequent removals by the hospital-trains. There are nine pharmacists in Pretoria at the present time, four being English, and all are nearly at a standstill for want of drugs. There have been large consignments awaiting them at the ports, but it has not been possible to get them over the rail. Disinfectants have been scarce when wanted most.

A NEW DYSENTERY-CURE is at present being tried in some of the hospitals, under the name of "Liquor Pelli Co." It is prepared from South African plants by the Universal Cure Syndicate, of Natal, and the directions given are:—Two teaspoonfuls every two hours with a wineglassful of hot milk. At present a large amount of mag. sulph., given in 1-dr. doses hourly, is used. Starch-and-opium enemata morning and evening are also given. In severe cases of hæmorrhage preparations of ergot are given, or a saline solution is occasionally injected into the veins. The food when a patient is sinking consists of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. albumen with a little peptonised milk and brandy administered hourly.

CIVIL COMPOUNDERS on service in the Pretoria military hospitals are practically cut off from the outer world, together with the rest of the inhabitants, the town being completely fenced in with barbed wire. There are only two exits and at each a strong guard is mounted, frequent patrols guarding the fencing all round. Volunteer-Compounders Jennings and McDiarmid are amongst those on duty there, and, until recently, Compounder Nicholson; but the last has been invalided home with enteric. Compounder Jennings has also been down, but it was a slight attack, fortunately. Jaundice is a common complaint amongst the troops. Compounders are on duty from 6 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 5 to 7 P.M. daily, at one of the military hospitals, and in the off-duty interval medicines are taken in hand at the dispensary of an adjoining hospital. Each compounder, however, has to be on duty every third afternoon and night, so that there is a continuous run of thirty-two hours every three days.

The Victorian Formulary.

SOME few months ago the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia appointed a committee to work out and test formulæ for preparations which, though not mentioned in the Pharmacopœia, have come to be prescribed more or less frequently. At the meeting of the Society on January 10, the committee, of which Messrs. D. Rankin, F. Cheshire, and E. T. Church have been an active sub-committee, reported. The committee have paid our book, "Pharmaceutical Formulas," a pretty compliment by using it quite liberally in their work, which has necessarily been laborious, as the object of the "Formulary" is not only to provide prescribable specialities for doctors, but preparations adapted for the colonial climate. The following are the formulæ suggested, which we reprint from *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* for February:—

SYR. HYPOPHOS. CO.

Calci hypophos. ...	...	...	5j. gr. iv.
Potass. hypophos. ...	...	...	5ij. gr. viij.
Sod. hypophos. ...	...	...	5ij. gr. viij.
Strychninæ hydroch. ...	...	...	gr. iv.
Ferri pyrophos. ...	...	...	5j.
Quin. hydrochlor. ...	...	...	gr. xxxij.
Sacch. alb. xtal. ...	...	...	q.s.

Dissolve the first three ingredients in the smallest quantity of cold water, the ferri pyrophos. in 5j. of warm; mix the solutions, and filter through kaolin. Dissolve the quin. hyd. and strychn. hyd. in 5j. diluted alcohol. Make a strong syrup to allow for solutions, and clarify by white of an egg or felt filtering-bag (and kaolin), and add enough to produce 5lxiv. of syr.

SYR. QUININÆ HYDROBROM.

Quininæ hydrobrom. ...	...	...	gr. lxxx.
Ac. hydrobrom. dil. ...	...	...	5ij.
Syrup. aurantii (B.P., 1898) ad	...	...	5x.

Dose: 5j. to 5ij. in water. [A modification of the "P. F." formula.]

MIST. PEP SINI Co. C. BISMUTHO.

Pepsin. (scales 1-3,000) ...	...	...	gr. cclvj.
Tr. nucis vom. (B.P., 1898) ...	...	...	5x. mxl.
Ac. hydrocyan. dil. ...	...	...	5iv. mxxvj.
Liq. carmini ...	...	...	5ss.
Aq. puræ ...	...	...	5viiij.
Liq. bismuthi ad	...	...	5xvj.

Dissolve the pepsine in the water, and add the liq. carmini last. Filter per talc if necessary. Each 5j. dose contains—

Pepsin. ...	...	...	gr. ij.
Tr. nuc. vom. ...	...	...	mv.
Ac. hydrocyan. dil. ...	...	...	mij.

Dose: 5ss. to 5j. in water.

Liq. carmini must be filtered perfectly bright before use.

LIQ. CARMINI.

Carmini ...	...	...	gr. xx.
Liq. ammon. fort. ...	...	...	mxx.
Glycerini ...	...	...	5j.
Alcohol. 90-per-cent. ...	...	...	5j.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	5j.

Dissolve carmine in water and ammonia, filter, and add glycerin last.

LIQ. PEPTICUS.

This is the formula given for liq. pepsini in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" (page 536), except that aq. chloroformi 5iv. is replaced by ess. rennet. 5viiij.

ESSENCE OF RENNET.

This is on the lines of No. III., ess. rennet, "Pharmaceutical Formulas" (page 288). A few drops of glyc. ac. tannici are used to clear the preparation, as there recommended.

VIN. PEP SINI.

Pepsin. (scales 1-3,000) ...	...	...	gr. cxxviiij.
Glycerini ...	...	...	5j.
Acid. hydrochlor. (fort.) ...	...	...	5ss.
Vin. xerici ad	...	...	5xvj.

Mix the glycerin and acid. Add the pepsin, and when dissolved add enough wine to make 5xvj. Filter through talc.

This is constructed after No. II. formula ("Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 252), but contains only 1 gr. of pepsin to the drachm. The sherry should be detannated. The product can not be sold retail in England without a wine-licence.

LIQ. EUONYMIN. C. PEP SINI.

Tr. euonymi ...	...	...	5iiss.
Pepsin. (scales 1-3,000) ...	...	...	5iv.
Ac. hydrochlor. dil. ...	...	...	5iij.
Glycerini ...	...	...	5iij.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	5xxx.

5j. for a dose.

The tr. euonymi is made by percolating 4 gr. of euonymus root-bark, in No. 20 powder, with 20 oz. alcohol 90-per-cent.

MIST. TUSSI RUB. CONC.

Ac. hydrobrom. ...	...	...	mxxv.
Tr. chlorof. et morphinæ (B.P., 1898) ...	...	...	mviij.
Liq. carmini ...	...	...	mij.
Ac. hydrocyan. dil. ...	...	...	mij.
Syr. pruni virg. ad	...	...	5j.

Let stand for a day, then filter through paper.

Dose: 5j. to 5ij.

LIQ. COPAIBÆ SOLUBILIS, "P. F.," page 529.

MIST. BROMOFORMI, "P. F.," page 544.

ELIXIR CALISAYA, N.F., see "P. F.," page 473.

LIQ. SANTAL. FLAV. CO. SOLUBILIS, "P. F.," page 539.

LIQ. OPI SED, "P. F.," page 535, but sherry is increased from 1 oz. to 3 oz.

EMULSIO OL. MORRHUÆ

(c. Hypophosphibus, Ovis et Vin).

Ol. morrhue ...	...	...	5viiij.
Ovi vitelli ...	...	...	ij.
Pulv. tragacanth. ...	...	...	gr. viij.
Liq. saccharini (5 per cent.) ...	...	...	5j.
Tr. benz. simp. ...	...	...	5j.
Spt. chlorof. ...	...	...	5iv.
Ol. amygd. ess. ...	...	...	mviiij.
Sodii hypophos. ...	...	...	5j.
Calci hypophos. ...	...	...	5j.
Vin. xerici q.s. ad	...	...	5xvj.

Place tragacanth in dry mortar, rub with a little oil, then add the yolks of eggs (previously beaten), stir briskly, add wine and oil alternately until quantity is made up. Dissolve the hypophosphites in the wine.

(A modified form of the recipe given in "P. F.," page 481.)

LIQ. THYMOL. CO. (LISTERINE).

Thymol. ...	...	...	5ij.
Ac. benzoic. ...	...	...	5vj.
Eucalyptol. ...	...	...	5ss.
Ol. gaultheriæ ...	...	...	mxxx.
Menthol. ...	...	...	5j.
Solve in alcohol. 90-per-cent. ...	...	...	5xxx.
Sod. bibor. ...	...	...	5j.
Ac. boric. ...	...	...	5j.
Aq. puræ ad	...	...	5c.

Stand for a few days, then filter through talc.

ELIXIR CASCARÆ C. GLYCERINO.

Ext. cas. sag. liq. ...	...	...	5xxx.
Ext. glycyrrh. liq. ...	...	...	5xxx.
Glycerin. ...	...	...	5xxx.
Saccharin. (soluble) ...	...	...	gr. cclxxx.
Ol. anisi ...	...	...	mxx.
Ol. menth. pip. ...	...	...	mxx.
Ol. anethi ...	...	...	mxx.
Ol. caryoph. ...	...	...	mxx.
Ol. cinnam. ...	...	...	mxx.
Alcohol. 90-per-cent. ...	...	...	5j.

Dissolve the oils in the alcohol, and add to the other ingredients.

Dose: 5j. to 5ij. as a laxative, or 5ss. t.d.s.

THROAT-SPRAYS.

No. I.

Iodi. (pur.)	...	...	...	gr. j.
Menthol.	...	...	...	3j.
Ol. petrol. alb. ad	...	...	...	3j.

Dissolve iodine in the oil by heat, and add menthol while warm.

No. II.

Guaicol.	...	...	...	℥x.
Menthol.	...	...	...	3j.
Ol. petrol. alb. ad	...	...	...	3j.

No. III.

Cocain. (alk.)	...	...	...	gr. x.
Menthol.	...	...	...	3j.
Ol. petrol. alb. ad	...	...	...	3j.

Antiseptic stimulant and sedative for inhalation in phthisis, and in excessive muco-purulent discharge from bronchial tubes.

No. IV.

Menthol.	...	...	...	gr. xxx.
Cocain. hyd.	...	...	...	gr. v.
Tr. benz. co.	...	...	...	3j.
Glycerini ad	...	...	...	3ij.

Sedative and demulcent, useful in bronchial congestion and irritation (acute or chronic), irritable cough generally.

No. V.

Cocain. hyd.	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Menthol.	...	...	...	gr. x.
Tr. aurant.	...	...	...	3ij.
Glycerini ad	...	...	...	3j.

For hay-fever, irritable catarrhal state of the pulmonary mucous membrane.

No. VI.

Ol. eucalypt.	...	...	...	℥xx.
Thymol.	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Menthol.	...	...	...	gr. xxv.
Ol. gaultherie	...	...	...	℥vij.
Ac. boric.	...	...	...	gr. vij.
Glyc. ac. tannic.	...	...	...	3ij.
Alcohol. 90-per-cent.	...	...	...	3ij.

For relaxed sore throat, granular pharyngitis and chronic laryngitis and loss of voice, and all throat-troubles.

College Notes.

A VISIT TO PRICE'S.—By the kindness of the managers of Price's Patent Candle Company (Limited), Mr. C. E. Sage, of the Central School of Pharmacy, 2 Charterhouse Street, E.C., took a party of his students to see the manufacture of candles and soap as carried on in the extensive works at Battersea. The chief centres of interest for the students were the refining of crude paraffin-wax and the preparation of palmitin, stearin, and glycerin from crude fats and oils. Soap-hoiling, milling, and stamping operations were inspected, and an impressive lesson was learnt by students. The visit was a lengthy one, the manufacture of candles, soap, and night-lights being viewed from start to finish.

ABERDEEN STUDENTS AMONG THE ACIDS.—On March 16 the students of the School of Pharmacy, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, accompanied by the head teacher (Mr. Hugh E. Ellis, pharmaceutical chemist) and Mr. J. Cruickshank, chemist and druggist, visited the Sandilands Chemical-works, Aberdeen. The primary object of the visit was to get a little practical insight into the working of a modern sulphuric-acid plant. The party was conducted over the works by Mr. John Miller, one of the proprietors, and Mr. Pattison, of the laboratory staff. The whole process of vitriol-manufacture—from the breaking up of the pyrites into suitable pieces to the means of drawing off the acid from the "chambers," and its subsequent purification and concentration—was thoroughly explained.

SHEFFIELD STUDENTS SMOKE.—On March 14 the students of the Sheffield College of Pharmacy had a most successful smoking-concert at the Brincliffe Oaks Hotel, Nether Edge. Seventy students and friends were present, and Councillor J. M. Furness, chemist and druggist, was in the chair. A programme of twenty-two items was gone through, Messrs. E. G. Robinson, Bellman, and Vance acting as accompanists. Mr. Appleton, chemist and druggist, gave a Shakesperian recitation, and Mr. Appleton,

jun., gave Carleton's recitation, "Over the Hill from the Poor-house," and the "Bell of Ottery." Mr. Kelly sang "The Thorn" and "Pilgrim of Love," whilst Messrs. Rodgers, Badger, Bellman, and Thompson each contributed solos. The humorous side was in the hands of Messrs. Bleasdale and S. Nicholson, who gave great satisfaction. Mr. Brooks gave a violin selection, and Messrs. Robinson and Vance each gave piano solos. Votes of thanks to the artistes, who were replied for by the Principal (Mr. J. W. J. Turner), and the singing of "God save the King" closed the proceedings.

BLOOMSBURY STUDENTS DINE.—The annual dinner of the School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society took place at the Holborn Restaurant on March 19, Professor J. Reynolds Green in the chair. There were about one hundred present, the company including beacon lights of officialdom at Bloomsbury. The Council was represented by the Vice-President (Mr. C. B. Allen), Mr. Walter Hills, and Mr. Michael Carteighe. The dinner and the loyal toast having been satisfactorily disposed of, Mr. R. A. Robinson, jun., proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," thanking the members of the Council, examiners, and officials of the Society for meeting them in an atmosphere which was more pleasantly relaxing than the tiring and hacing environment of the Lecturo Theatre. He alluded to the need there was for a common room for the use of the students at the Bloomsbury School, and hoped the matter would meet with the attention of the Pharmaceutical Society. The Vice-President, in the course of his reply, said that during a large portion of his official life he had been so accustomed to having everything said for him exactly as he wanted it from the chair that he had yet hardly recovered from the shock of being called upon to speak for himself. He traced the history of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, whose diamond jubilee they might he said to be celebrating that very evening. He reviewed the work which the Pharmaceutical Society had done, appropriately referring to his remarks as being a species of "hoiled-down Calendar." He deprecated the "bloated West-end aristocrat" idea of the Council members as put forward by many of its critics, and contended that the Council always was and is composed of a sprinkling of men who have to earn their bread and cheese from the practice of pharmacy. The toast of "The School of Pharmacy" was proposed by Mr. Walter Hills, who said the qualities of the present-session students were above the average, but their numbers not so great as could be wished. With regard to a common room, the house in Bloomsbury Square was not large enough for the School's requirements, and he hoped that in due course of time the Pharmaceutical Society would be able to provide new premises for their students, and if he were on the Council when that desirable thing happened he would endeavour to ensure that the students had a common room allotted to them. The Chairman, as Dean of the School, replied. He recalled, as Mr. Hills had done, the past glories of the professoriate, and the distinguished students the school had produced. With regard to their recognition of the professoriate by the University of London, he hoped that in course of time there might be a degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy. As is usual at gatherings of this kind, the speech of the evening was made by a student. Mr. H. S. Phillips, in a speech full of humour and eloquence, proposed "Past Square Students." He made many topical hits which were much relished by his audience, and referred to world-known pharmacists in an agreeably witty manner. To this toast Dr. Luff replied. Others followed. During the evening a programme of music was gone through, the talent, which was not inconsiderable, being almost entirely indigenous to the Bloomsbury School. A quartette party, consisting of Mr. F. Deeping, H. S. Phillips, G. Mitchell, and J. H. Northey, rendered concerted pieces, while songs were given by Messrs. A. G. C. Paterson and C. Morley, the humour being in the capable hands of Mr. H. A. Brown, who delighted all with his clever musical sketches and songs. Mr. S. Coupland contributed pianoforte solos.

New Books.

Avery, A. H. *A B C of Dynamo Design*. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 104. 1s. net. (Dawbarn.)

Gray, P. L. *Principles of Magnetism and Electricity*. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 252. 3s. 6d. (Methuen.)

Mackenzie, W. J. *Home Medicine and Surgery*. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 190. Sewed. 1s. (L. U. Gill.)

Medical Annual, 1901: a Year-book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index. 7½ × 5½. Pp. 714. 7s. 6d. net. (Wright.)

Phipson, T. L. *Researches on the Past and Present History of Earth's Atmosphere*. 7½ × 4½. Pp. 206. 2s. 6d. (Griffin.)

Perkin, F. M. *Qualitative Chemical Analysis, Organic and Inorganic*. 9 illus. and spectrum plate. 8½ × 5½. Pp. 276. 3s. 6d. (Longmans.)

Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

Liverpool Chemists' Association.

At the meeting held at the Royal Institution on Thursday, March 14—Mr. Harold Wyatt, jun. (President), in the chair—Mr. John Jones (principal of Messrs. Fergusson & Co.) was elected a member.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

were then made. Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN drew attention to the recent advertisements for Army dispensers. He thought it was a disgrace that 3s. 6d. a day should be offered to men who were qualified as chemists were. He understood that in the Crimea 10s. 6d. a day was paid, with quarters equal to officers. There were no quarters now, the dispenser having to take his lot with the private. Mr. WYATT took exception to Mr. Marsden's view of the case, as he thought it would be a disgrace for a qualified man to undertake the work of dispensing in the army. If there were room for using his trained intelligence it would be different, but the dispensing required was merely routine. He thought 3s. 6d. per day for a compounder, with quarters and uniform, was not bad, as the man was generally trained in the Army, and was not a chemist in any sense whatever. The dispensers in the Crimea, of whom his father had been one, had different work to do, including "dressing," and work of that character.

Mr. R. C. COWLEY then read the paper which had been compiled by Mr. J. P. Catford and himself, entitled

THE ASH OF DRUGS AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR PURITY.

Referring to Professor Greenish's black ash from cardamoms, the authors stated that the colour is due to iron and manganese phosphide, owing to reduction of the phosphate which is present in the seeds. They proved this by extracting portions of the seed with ether, alcohol, and weak hydrochloric acid in succession, thereby removing matter which otherwise would reduce phosphates on combustion. The marc yielded an ash containing phosphate. Iron and manganese are known constituents of *Zingiberaceæ* products. Flückiger proved this at the B.P.C. in Brighton, 1872, especially in regard to cardamoms; and, said the authors, the reduction of phosphate and liberation of free phosphorus and formation of metallic phosphides is not mere theoretical speculation—anyone may convince himself by two simple experiments—

1. If a few cardamom-seeds are projected on to fused alkaline carbonate and nitrate they float on the surface and give off puffs of phosphoretted hydrogen.
2. A few seeds ignited on platinum foil over a capsule, the end of the foil being folded over to keep them in position, the foil will be perforated and metallic looking globules will drop into the capsule.

On the other hand, if a gramme of seeds be mixed with three times their weight of nitre and deflagrated, a small quantity at a time, in a hot crucible, the fused mass will be green whilst hot, but after cooling become a beautiful blue, varying from turquoise to ultramarine according to the proportion of flux used. The mass when digested in water dissolves without leaving any dark-coloured residue, but, instead, a small quantity of light-reddish sediment like ferric hydrate. This, collected on a small filter, washed, and tested in a borax bead held in the Bunsen flame, gave the authors at first a most perplexing medley of colours; sometimes manganese would assert itself, sometimes iron, and again, in another part of the flame, a deep green, just like chromium; but on more careful and steady exposure to the reducing flame, and then cooling in the base of the flame before exposure to the air, the unmistakable sapphire-blue of cobalt was obtained, and this explained the green produced by the mixture of the cobalt blue and yellow from the iron.

The authors then turned their attention to the tincture,

which they thought may contain these metals, and from 20 c.c. they got analytical indications of 2 milligrammes of cobalt, besides traces of nickel and faint flame coloration of manganese. A good brown ash is obtained from cardamom-seeds by oxidising with nitric acid and ammonium nitrate.

A method available for those who do not wish to risk corrosion of their platinum vessels is to heat the drug in the bowl of a clay tobacco-pipe, with the stem inclined in such a way as to induce a current of air through it, projecting a small portion in at a time. The combustion is complete in a few minutes without fusion, and it has the further advantage of thoroughly oxidising the ash, which readily shakes out without appreciable loss. As to the question of distinguishing admixture of pericarp with seed, the former contains a large proportion of lime, as may be readily seen by dissolving it out of the ash with dilute acetic acid, and precipitating with ammonium oxalate. The seed does not contain one-tenth as much, but potash instead.

As cobalt is not so commonly found in soils as iron and manganese, it is possible that it may serve as an indication of the geographical source of certain samples of the drug. The authors found more cobalt in a sample of Malabar cardamoms than in a sample of powder bought in the ordinary way.

The authors argued that the constituents of a drug should be considered in making ash-determinations of them, so that the procedure may be adapted to suit, especially extraction of constituents which retard complete incineration. This, they said, was done a hundred years ago. Dr. Nehemiah Grew, in 1676, read before the Royal Society an account of a lengthy series of ash-determinations, in which he carefully distinguishes between the proportion of lixivial (or potash) and the earthy in the *caput mortuum* or total ash. For example, in the cases of senna and colocynth pulp, calcining a pound of each he found senna to yield only slightly over 1.1 per cent. of soluble salt, whilst colocynth-pulp yielded 9.375 per cent. total ash, of which over two-thirds was lixivial (potash) salt. Of rhubarb, he remarked that it yielded more *caput mortuum* by 25 per cent. than any other root he had calcined, yet it was "meer earth, scarce any salt." The twentieth-century chemist ought to go one better than Dr. Grew, who had the calcinations done by a London apothecary, Mr. John Blackstone, and find out more about the condition in which the so-called mineral constituents of plants actually exist in the living cells. In concluding, the authors suggested:—

1st. The method of obtaining the "ash" ought to be authoritatively defined.

2nd. It might be worth while for a series of samples of cardamoms of known origin to be examined to determine:—
(a) Whether cobalt is to be found only in those forms from one locality. (b) To decide if the presence of more than a trace of lime in 1 gramme of powder is good reason to condemn such sample, on suspicion of pericarp. (c) To decide if the absence of all but faint traces of Mn is characteristic of all light-coloured seed. (d) To decide the state of combination of the phosphorus in the seed before calcination.

Incidentally they remarked that tr. card. co. is really a syr. phos. co., for it contains phosphate of iron and sugar.

Mr. WYATT, in opening the discussion, said research chemists, in dealing with vegetable organic substances, should first determine in what form the phosphates exist in the tissues. He thought the authors' solution of the matter was very happy; the point of the pericarp containing a larger proportion of calcium salt than the seed was worthy of note, and should be worked out; it would almost enable chemist to decide whether they had a pure seed powder or not. The discovery of cobalt was valuable.

Mr. WARDLEWORTH said that such work as this was a strong justification for the existence of their Society.

Mr. MARSDEN considered that the work which had given rise to the present paper should be well revised before being put before the public—he was afraid research of this kind was too frequently done by students, and then "fathered" by their superiors. It was very necessary that methods recommended to chemists should be simple, and not require the fittings of a research laboratory or the resources of a wholesale house. For example, a muffle was out of the reach of most retail men. The chemical estimation of ash might be pushed too far, however, and lead to hair-splitting with no practical benefit.

In replying, Mr. COWLEY strongly combated Mr. Marsden's idea that the estimation of ash chemically could be pushed too far. So long as ash was to be considered an element in analysis it was imperative that the incineration should be perfect, and that no oxidisable portion should be left.

Mr. MARSDEN then read his paper on

A DRUG RECENTLY OFFERED AS RHATANY-ROOT.

The drug referred to was exhibited by Mr. Theo. H. Wardleworth at the Association meeting on November 15, 1900 (see *C. & D.*, November 24, 1900, page 842). It was from Peru, and was offered for sale in Liverpool.

The root is in pieces of varying shape, usually tapering, some pieces being contorted (as E and G). There are re-



TYPICAL ROOTS. (About two-thirds natural size.)

mains of stem and radical leaves on the upper part. The roots vary in size from 5 to 9 centimetres (about 2 to 3½ inches) in length, by 0.5 to 1.5 centimetre (¼ to ⅝ inch) in diameter. The bark is reddish-brown in colour, rough scaly, and longitudinally grooved, and has transverse ridges. The fracture is short, and exhibits a medullium of some twenty-four wedge-shaped bundles with a well-marked pericambium. The root has no definite odour, and an astringent taste.

Neither the macroscopic nor microscopic characters of the root correspond in any way with any species of *Krameria*. The author described the microscopic structure of the root, and compared it with the structures of official rhatanies, and stated that Mr. E. M. Holmes, from a preliminary examination of the microscopic structure, has reason to believe that the plant yielding it, although probably not a *krameria*, might belong to a genus nearly allied. Guayaquil rhatany, examined by M. J. Feuilleux, has a certain resemblance to the new drug.

Mr. T. S. WOKES proposed, and Mr. T. H. SWINTON seconded a vote of thanks to the author. A brief discussion followed in which the PRESIDENT and Messrs. COWLEY and WARDLEWORTH joined.

Derby and District Chemists' Association.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of members of this Association was held at Derby on March 14 for the purpose of considering the draft Pharmacy Bill. The President (Mr. R. W. Stevenson) was in the chair. The SECRETARY (Mr. J. A. Cope) read the clauses, which were considered *seriatim*. Clause 2 presented a doubt in the minds of several members as to whether the words "it shall be unlawful for any person to keep open shop, &c., unless it be *bonâ-fide* conducted by a qualified person" inferred that anyone might keep open shop provided he employed a qualified person to conduct it; but it was shown that the Pharmacy Act of 1868 was not to be repealed, and Clause 1 of that Act provides that all persons keeping open shop shall be qualified. All the members present considered the Bill had been carefully framed, and that the interests of the public as well

as of chemists were safeguarded, whilst the difficult problem of company-trading had been fairly met.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. SOUTHERN seconded—

That this Association approves of the Bill and will support the Pharmaceutical Society in its endeavour to make it law.

This was carried unanimously.

Oxford and District Chemists' Association.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held on March 12 at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford, Mr. J. H. Jessop (President) in the chair. The SECRETARY (Mr. J. Dolbear) presented the annual report, the adoption of which was moved by the MAYOR of OXFORD (Mr. G. C. Druce, M.A.), and carried unanimously. The Secretary also reported that the financial position of the Association was good, the balance in hand amounting to 7l. 8s. 11d. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. C. Clayton; Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. Squire and Mr. J. H. Jessop; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. Dolbear; Committee, Messrs. Burbank, Mathews, Druce, and Gunstone.

Torquay Chemists' Association.

THE members again met at the Pavilion Hotel, Torquay, on Thursday, March 14, Mr. Slomon presiding. Communications were read by the HON. SECRETARY (Mr. J. Young) from the Plymouth Chemists' Association, giving particulars of their system of co-operative buying, rules, and other information; from the Nottingham Chemists' Association, offering help; from the Torquay District Grocers' Association on the subject of prices of certain proprietary articles, with a view to fixing a minimum cutting-price on certain foods and other articles; and from the Torquay Oil-merchants' Association, asking that the chemists would agree to fixing a minimum price for methylated spirit. It was decided to appoint a committee to go thoroughly into these matters and to report at a future meeting.

At the suggestion of Mr. J. W. COCKS the area of the Association was defined as being coterminous with that of the Torquay parliamentary division, which includes the towns of Torquay, Paignton, Brixham, and Dartmouth. It was stated that every chemist in the borough of Torquay, as well as the neighbouring town of Paignton, had expressed his intention of joining the Association. The election of officers resulted in Mr. Slomon being appointed the first President, Mr. B. Knight Vice-President, and Messrs. Tomlin, Quant, Ness, and Fowler (of Torquay), Waymouth (of St. Marychurch), and Sheriff (of Paignton), the Executive Committee, together with Mr. J. Young, the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Bourne, the Hon. Treasurer.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THE usual weekly meeting on March 14 was devoted to exhibits and specimens shown by members. There was a poor attendance, only twelve members being present when Mr. J. A. DEWHIRST (President) called upon

Mr. H. F. PECK, who showed some well-prepared slides for the microscope of various specimens of

MICRO-ORGANISMS,

amongst which were tuberculosis, bubonic-plague, diphtheria, anthrax, and cholera bacilli. The slides were prepared from spores cultivated by Mr. Peck himself, and were examined with much interest.

The PRESIDENT, Mr. CURREY, and Mr. MILLER took part in a short discussion, the chief purport of which was the advisability of chemists and dispensers taking up the study of practical bacteriology with the idea of turning it to profit in the future. Mr. PECK thought that in a few years' time most large towns would employ expert bacteriologists much in the same way as they now do analysts.

TRAVELLERS' "TABLOID"-CASES.

Mr. F. CURRY showed some extremely interesting wallets and cases carried by travellers and others in hazardous journeys and enterprises in various parts of the world, amongst which were Dr. Nansen's "tabloid" medicine-belt,

carried by the famous Arctic explorer in his attempt to reach the North Pole. The belt was in an excellent state of preservation, and the contents were found practically unimpaired, notwithstanding the extremes of heat and cold to which they had been subjected. Other exhibits were the wallet carried by the well-known cyclist-traveller, Mr. R. L. Jefferson, who rode to Khiva on a bicycle; and the wallet which Dr. Gray, late physician to the Ameer of Afghanistan, carried on his journeys in that country. The Ameer, it was remarked, had often been physicked with tabloids from this wallet. Perhaps the most interesting exhibit of the series was the small tin medicine-case of the late Mr. G. W. Stevens, which the talented young war-correspondent took with him through the two Egyptian campaigns against the Mahdi and the South African War up to the siege of Ladysmith, during which, it will be remembered, Mr. Stevens succumbed to enteric fever.

ENTOMOLOGY.

Mr. R. E. LOWNSBROUGH showed an excellent variety of entomological specimens. Amongst them were gipsy moth eggs, Poplar hawk moth, the death's-head moth, and the hornet moth. These had been collected mostly in the neighbourhood of Scarborough. Mr. Lownsbrough also showed a specimen of German tinder, a tough sheet of fungus, chiefly found on laurel-trees, and used in some parts for spreading plasters.

BUCHU DERIVATIVE.

Mr. J. A. DEWHIRST showed a small quantity of diosphenol, the crystalline substance prepared from buchu. This is believed to be an important constituent of buchu. Greenish says that the long variety of buchu-leaves has been omitted from the B.P. because it does not contain any diosphenol. It is possibly the active principle of buchu, and may become as much used in time by itself as menthol, a somewhat similar body.

SPURIOUS IPECACUANHA.

Mr. Dewhirst also showed a specimen of spurious ipecacuanha-root from South America, which he contrasted with specimens of Rio and Cartagena root, also shown. The peculiarity was the number of fibrous rootlets in the spurious root. The wood was small, and the bark thick, and not very annular. Under the microscope it was very similar to true ipecacuanha, except that the starch granules were bigger than in Rio or Cartagena. He had found emetine, cephaeline, and the third alkaloid (psychotrine), but his investigation had not yet been completed. He drew the attention of retail chemists to the value of microscopical investigation of the drugs they purchased.

A vote of thanks to the exhibitors brought the meeting to a close.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

At the meeting held at 35 York Place, Edinburgh, on March 13, Mr. David Harley (President) in the chair, Mr. DAVID McLAREN gave some

REMINISCENCES.

He said he began his apprenticeship at Alloa on April 14, 1859, his hours being from 7.30 A.M. to 9 P.M. daily, except Saturday, when the closing-hour was 10.30 P.M., and his salary 2s. 6d. a week. One of the two yearly fast days, the Queen's birthday, or New Year's Day were the only holidays during that happy four years' apprenticeship. In those days they felt no need for rest, and their work was to them a joy for ever. They had no dread of pharmaceutical examinations then, and had never heard of such a place as Bloomsbury Square. Prescriptions were plentiful, and opportunities of learning the business of pharmacy were many. By keeping well ahead of their work apprentices had ample time for study, and "Christison"—a book containing more wisdom, knowledge, and truth than all the Pharmacopoeias—was the great mentor. They sold "sweeties," biscuits, tobacco, cigars, lemonade, ginger-beer, gold watches, and penny brooches. In 1863 he went to a situation in Edinburgh at the modest salary of 10s. weekly for the first six months, and 11s. 6d. for the remainder of the engagement. The

hours at that time in Edinburgh were from 8.30 A.M. to 9 P.M., a little later on Saturdays, and four hours on Sundays. About this time the first edition of the British Pharmacopoeia came out, and Mr. McLaren recalled the solemn conclaves at the Bible Society's Rooms in 5 St. Andrew Square to consider whether all the old stocks would have to be discarded, and everything made afresh, or what was to be done. The Wilsonian Association met at that time in McLaren's Temperance Hotel, South St. Andrew Street, and was much frequented by earnest apprentices, and shortly after it had ceased to exist the Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association was formed. In 1864 Mr. McLaren transferred his services to the historic wholesale house in Smith's Place, and received a salary of 14s. a week. In this new capacity much useful experience was gained and much valuable knowledge acquired, a two-years' experience in the laboratory being especially instructive. During the sixteen-years' experience of the wholesale trade he then had he learned that the most difficult of all men to deal with was the average retail chemist. "Leaving the money-making side of business," continued Mr. McLaren, "I entered the retail, and became a servant of servants." There were no stores in those days, and dispensing charges were as they should be still.

In the discussion that followed Messrs. BOWMAN, HILL, and HARLEY spoke, and a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. McLaren.

The next communication was by Mr. WILLIAM DUNCAN, F.C.S., on the

SOLUBILITY OF OIL OF TURPENTINE IN GLACIAL ACETIC ACID.

The author said the 1898 Pharmacopoeia states that oil of turpentine "is soluble in its own volume of glacial acetic acid." The English market is chiefly supplied with the American oil, but French and Russian oils are occasionally found. All closely resemble each other, but are not identical either chemically or physically, and possibly behave differently to this solvent. The question was whether an oil not soluble to that extent was to be condemned. He had tried eight different samples, varying in price from 3d. to 1s. per lb., and only two answered the test, the others being soluble from 1 in 3 to 1 in 5. A very old sample—probably sixty years old—given to the author by Mr. Hill, dissolved readily. Of the best sample—guaranteed American—he found about 83 per cent distilled over between 155° F. and 163° F. The usual adulterants are resin-spirit and petroleum oils, the presence of which causes a steady and gradual rise in the boiling-point. He thought that if the oil answers the other characters and tests, a sample should not be condemned merely on its solubility in glacial acetic acid until more is known of the composition of the various oils. An oil not soluble to that extent may be genuine oil of turpentine, though not B.P. oil of turpentine. Care must be taken to see that the acetic acid is up to standard, as any water interferes greatly with the test.

Another paper by Mr. Duncan was on the

VOLUMETRIC DETERMINATION OF CHLORAL HYDRATE.

Complaints regarding the official titration-process are, he said, frequent among students who, unless warned of the danger, generally get extraordinarily high results in their first attempts. This is due to different ideas as to what the B.P. means when it orders "heat." Some raise the temperature a few degrees, others to boiling-point, with the result that their samples turn out from 100 to 120 per cent. and upwards. If, instead of heating, the chloral and alkali are shaken until decomposition is complete, greater accuracy is obtained. Twelve determinations made by different workers on the same sample gave results varying from 99.2 to 100 per cent., the whole operation being done at normal temperature. Repeated with heating, the results varied from 100 to 128 per cent. Mr. Alcock pointed out this defect about two years ago.

The next note (also by Mr. Duncan) was entitled

DOES SYRUP OF CODEINE KEEP?

Repeated complaints had been made, he said, of fermentation and the development of a fungus. Possibly the first may result from too much water being used as a solvent for the codeine phosphate, owing to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. being insufficient,

though it dissolves readily in $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and the resultant syrup is thus too dilute. Solutions of many phosphates serve as capital feeding-grounds for algae and fungi, and deterioration is more likely in such solutions than in the case of other salts. A syrup of codeine that keeps well can be made by dissolving 2 gr. of the alkaloid codeine in 1 dr. of rectified spirit, and adding simple syrup to 1 oz.

Mr. DUNCAN also read a note pointing out that the principle "solids by weight and liquids by measure" does not hold good in the Pharmacopœia; and several interesting extracts were read from a letter from Mr. W. S. Hogg, an Edinburgh pharmacist now at the front in South Africa in the R.A.M.C.

Mr. HILL said he could confirm the criticism of the test for chloral hydrate, and gave experimental details in proof of his statement.

Mr. MCDIARMID said his experience of syrup of codeine varied: one batch developed a fungoid growth resembling cotton-wool and the other kept well. He thought the test for oil of turpentine was an example of a tendency to copy without verification. It had been taken from the U.S.P.

Mr. DOTT said, with regard to the syrup of codeine, perhaps the ingredients had not been carefully sterilised in those instances in which the syrup did not keep. He thought the codeine phosphate would dissolve in the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of water if it was warmed. It was better to do that than add more water. This was one of the cases in which a small quantity of a preservative might well be added. He did not know why the compilers of the Pharmacopœia did not more frequently add preservatives. Salicylic acid might be undesirable, but he thought a small quantity of the very useful and effectual spirit of chloroform might with advantage be added.

Western Chemists' Association.

ONLY fifteen members of this Association turned up at the Westbourne Restaurant on March 20 to discuss "Pharmaceutical Legislation," and even those seemed to find the subject rather threadbare. The topic which excited most interest was Lord Avebury's

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

The series of questions which the Editor has propounded in connection with that measure (see page 479) to the local Associations of the country were referred to by the Chairman, Mr. H. CRACKNELL, President of the Association, and read in detail and commented upon first by Mr. J. F. HARRINGTON. A general approval was expressed by Mr. Harrington in answer to most of the questions, but the principle embodied in Question 2 would, he thought, be the means of wrecking the whole Bill. He thought it should not be left to option whether shops should be closed or not. Parliament should decide that point definitely. The freedom of the public need not necessarily be jeopardised, he thought, by the closing of chemists' shops, but he imagined that Clause 9 might be improved. With regard to the closing of shops in his district, he himself closed at 9 P.M., others at 10 P.M., and some he had never seen closed at all. A considerable amount of desultory discussion of an informal character ensued, Mr. WATSON being of opinion that chemists should be exempted entirely from the Bill. Mr. J. H. MATHEWS expressed himself strongly as of the same opinion, as did many others. The chief points of dissension seemed to be the question of the definition of "medical appliances" and the "local option" clause. Mr. BOWEN said perfumes would have to be classed in the category of necessities, as eau de Cologne and lavender-water are often used in the sick-room, whereupon Mr. MATHEWS stated that there was more eau de Cologne drunk than was used for any other purpose. Feeding-bottles, night-lights, and such things were mentioned as articles that would have to come under the head of "medical appliances," and the difficulty of being able to draw the line was generally agreed upon. There was an almost unanimous antagonism to Question 2. Mr. PARKER was the only member who expressed himself as hopeful on that point. He thought the difficulties raised by Mr. Harrington and others were more imaginary than real. He (Mr. Parker) was entirely in favour of the Bill, and he thought as much should be got into it as possible, and it

would be much better for chemists if they could get a statutory definition of the time they should close. Mr. GULLIVER and others pointed out that the local-option principle would be absolutely unworkable in London, although it might be managed in provincial towns. Mr. MELHUSH supported Mr. Parker's views; but the CHAIRMAN was not in favour of the Bill. Eventually a vote of the meeting was taken on the questions submitted, the majority being of opinion that the Bill, on the whole, was unnecessary, and if persisted in that chemists, at any rate, should be entirely exempted.

The latest

DRAFT PHARMACY BILL

was then mentioned by the CHAIRMAN, and expressions of opinion invited. Mr. PARKER did not think the new Bill was by any means an improvement on the first. It had evidently passed through the hands of the lawyers, he said, and was consequently less comprehensible. He was sorry to see no reference to the restriction of titles, and to find that the qualified-directorate clause had been dropped. Referring to Clause 7, he said he would like to have the phrase "business of the company" defined. If by that was meant the whole of the trading of the company, he dissented from it. He would like to see the pharmaceutical department of a company expressly stated as having to be under the absolute control of one or more directors, all of whom should be qualified. Mr. HICK thought the second Bill a great improvement on the first. He would like to see a qualified directorate, but that was impracticable. Mr. GULLIVER said the penalty in Clause 12 ought to be increased for each offence, and for a third offence a fine of not less than 50% should be imposed.

This closed the business of the meeting.

North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association.

AT a meeting of this Association held last week it was resolved to contest the forthcoming election for a seat on the Pharmaceutical Council. Mr. R. L. Gifford was unanimously adopted as candidate, and the following members were appointed a committee to further his candidature, with power to add to their number:—Messrs. T. Critchley (Chairman), W. Wells, Ralph Sherrock, Jos. Hindle, W. Pickup, C. A. Critchley, J. H. Needham, W. Grimshaw, and W. Standing; and Messrs. W. Holt and G. B. Pickworth (Hon. Secretaries).

Trade Notes.

DIONINE.—Mr. E. Merck, 16 Jewry Street, E.C., has issued a booklet of recent clinical reports on dionine. A few examples of prescriptions in which dionine is an ingredient are given at the end to illustrate the pharmacy of this morphia and codia substitute.

MESSRS. T. & H. SMITH & Co., manufacturing chemists Edinburgh, London, and Glasgow, have prepared a large exhibit for the Glasgow Exhibition. The finest object in the exhibit is a column of crystallised codeine—the largest they have ever been able to obtain. In weight it is about 24 lbs., its value is from 250% to 300%, and it represents the product of about 4,000 lbs. of opium.

BLAUD'S PILLS.—We have known Bland's pills to be sold by manufacturers at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gross, but Messrs. A. H. Cox & Co., of Brighton, break the record this week by announcing in their advertisement 100-gross lots at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gross. At that price they can be had either oval or round, coated with the original Cox white or pink tasteless coating. The pills can also be bought by weight at 1s. 4d. per lb.

A SEASONABLE TABLOID has been introduced by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. It contains minute doses of benzoic acid, codeine, menthol, ipecacuanha, cocaine, and red gum, so that it is excellent for relaxed sore throat and the bronchial symptoms which are characteristic of this season's influenza. The combination is called "tabloid" benzoic-acid compound; it is pleasant to taste, and is sent out in bottles of twenty-five.

Pharmaceutical Fauna.



Chemicus Howardianus.

The artist appears to have been unable to delineate the corporeal characteristics of this species of *Chemicus*, probably because its more notable points are cerebral. It is gifted with a fluent and, on occasion, biting tongue, and its notes in the latter tone on the pharmacopœial "about" are historic. Its nominal habitat is Stratford, but it is found wherever the genus congregates, and generally in the position indicated. For example, on the east side of Bloomsbury it reposes on the treasury of the Institute. Has a nodding acquaintance with the Dutch through Java cinchona, knows a great deal about quinine and Rochelle salts, and has views about the British workman.

Marriage.

HARDY — MELROSE. — At Murrayfield, Edinburgh, on March 14, by Rev. Alex. Mair, D.D., Robert Hardy, chemist and druggist, Roseburn Terrace, to Jessie, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Melrose, Edinburgh.

Deaths.

ABRAM. — At New Walsingham Norfolk, on March 16, after a short illness Mr. F. W. Abram, chemist and druggist. Aged 63. Mr. Abram formerly carried on business at East Dereham, and was prominently identified with the Volunteer movement, having occupied the position of Quartermaster to D Company of the Norfolk Rifle Volunteers. On the death, four years ago, of the postmaster at Walsingham, Mr. Abram succeeded to the position. He was a prominent Oddfellow, and had taken a leading part in establishing a widows' and orphans' fund in connection with his lodge.

BOSTOCK. — On March 12, Mr. William Bostock, chemist and druggist, founder and late head of the firm of Messrs. W. Bostock & Son, chemists, Ashton-under-Lyne. Aged 75. Mr. Bostock was apprenticed when a youth to the late Mr. Charles Jones, chemist and druggist, Hanley. From Hanley he went to Newport as assistant to Mr. Henry Chalmers, chemist and druggist, after which he entered the establishment of Messrs. Randall & Son, Southampton. Forty years ago he commenced business on his own account in Ashton-under-Lyne. He developed and built up an extensive trade, from which he retired in favour of his son, Mr. John William Bostock, pharmaceutical chemist, in 1896.

CENTER. — At 57 St. Stephen Street, Edinburgh, on March 16, Laura, wife of Mr. Joseph A. Center, chemist and druggist.

CROSS. — On March 8, Mr. William Cross, pharmaceutical chemist, Knightsbridge. Aged 67.

GABITES. — Suddenly at 51 Upper Warwick Street, Liverpool, on March 16, Mr. William Gabites, chemist and druggist. Mr. Gabites was one of the oldest chemists in Liverpool.

GEE. — At Whitehaven, on March 15, Mr. Stacey Gee, chemist and druggist. Aged 83. Mr. Gee was born in Cambridge in 1818, and served his apprenticeship with Mr. Jones, Ranelagh Place, Liverpool. He commenced business as a chemist in the Market Place, Whitehaven, in 1841, and was very successful. For fifty-six years he was a member of the Loyal Lebanon Tent of Rechabites, and was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, Whitehaven, from 1860. In the year 1899 his friends connected with the Presbyterian Church, presented Mr. Gee with a handsome illuminated address in token of his long and faithful service to that church in which he took the deepest interest until the very last. Outside the Presbyterian Church and temperance circles Mr. Gee took little interest in public affairs, except for a short period, when he was a member of the Whitehaven and Preston Quarter Burial Board. He was a man of few words, but his judgment could always be relied upon. Mr. Gee's two sons, Mr. David G. Gee and Mr. Stacey T. Gee, still carry on the business in Market Place established by their father.

PHIN. — On March 18 Miss J. Phin died suddenly in the shop of her brother, Mr. Alexander Phin, chemist, 6 Castle Place, Montrose. Death was due to heart-disease.

SAUNDERS. — At Fairlawn, Wimbledon Common, on March 15, Sir Edwin Saunders, F.R.C.S., L.D.S. Aged 87. The deceased gentleman was amongst the earliest to memorialise the Royal College of Surgeons of England with a view to obtaining recognition by examination and diploma for dental practitioners. He was appointed dentist to Queen Victoria and her Consort in 1846, and was also dentist to the Prince and Princess of Wales. In 1859, mainly through his efforts, the Dental Hospital and School was established in Soho Square, which so well met the wants of the times in regard to dental education that a larger establishment was opened in Leicester Square in 1874. He was practically the founder of the Odontological Society, and had been president of the British Dental Association as well as of that Society, and also lectured at St. Thomas's Hospital on dental subjects. He received his knighthood in 1883.

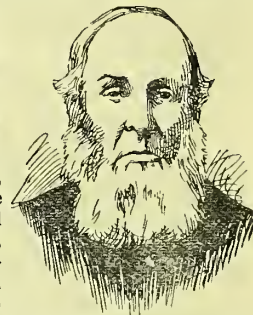
SLICER. — At Bingley, Leeds, on March 14, Mr. Walter Slicer, pharmaceutical chemist.

WATTS. — At Attercliffe, Sheffield, on March 13 Mr. Joseph Watts, chemist and druggist. Aged 79. Mr. Watts was the oldest chemist in the city. He commenced business first in Leicester then he removed to Liverpool, and afterwards to Attercliffe, where he had carried on business for fifty-four years. He did a wholesale as well as a retail trade. Mr. Watts was for thirty years senior deacon of Zion Congregational Church, Attercliffe.

Recent Wills.

INGRAM. — The will of Mr. James G. Ingram, of Lismore, Upper Norwood, and of the London Indiarubber-works, Hackney Wick, who died on February 25, has been proved. The gross value of the estate is 77,353*l.*, and the net personality is valued at 18,125*l.*

WARDE. — The will of Mr. Richard S. Warde, chemist and druggist, of Carolgate, Retford, has been proved at Somerset House. The executors are James Smith, 21 Holgate Road, York, druggist's traveller; Martha Douthwaite, of Ackworth, sister of the testator; and Arthur Preston, of East Retford. The gross value of the estate is 856*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, and the net value of the personality 597*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*



Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SELLER on the label of a poison sold by retail, as ordained by Section 17 of the Pharmacy Act, was a police provision purely and simply, and it was one which has been useful in scores of instances since 1868. The interpretation of the section requiring it by Mr. Lane in the West London Police-court in the proceedings taken against Mr. Reece, was, so far as a mere layman can see, a piece of pure legal pedantry. It was worse than that: it destroys as far as it can the protection of the public which was intended to be provided. Mr. Lane rules that the owner of two, of twenty, of two hundred shops may use on his poison-labels the same address, the address of his head office, for all of them. How are the police to track a sale of a poison by a label which may have been used in Penzance, or Dover, or Newcastle-on-Tyne, or anywhere between? This danger, sanctioned by Mr. Lane, is a very real one. As to the name on the label having to be the name or names as on the register, his decision is a merely wanton interference with the rights which pharmacists enjoy in common with other people. It is legal for anybody to adopt or retain a trade-name other than his own so long as the property of other people is duly respected. Mr. Lane reads into the Pharmacy Act a provision specially debarring pharmacists from this common right, for no earthly purpose that I can make out.

INACCURATE DISPENSING such as that reported last week from Sheffield is a grievous injury to the whole body of pharmacists. There are about a hundred chemists in Sheffield. There is no evidence to show how many of these were tested with that quinine and citric-acid prescription, but even if all were, it is humiliating and discouraging to find that, notwithstanding all our education, our examinations, and our ethics, so large a proportion as 3 per cent cannot be depended upon to prepare a prescription correctly. The excuses offered by the three defendants were hardly more creditable to their logical reputation than the analyses were to their professional fame.

MR. PATERSON'S ALLEGATION against the method by which the elections of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society have been hitherto conducted will test the ingenuity of those who may have to answer him. The Charter, as he points out, does certainly set forth distinctly a course of procedure which, of late years at all events, has not been followed. The editorial footnote appended to Mr. Paterson's letter suggests a clever line of defence, but it is not fully satisfying. If the Charter had given power to enact by-laws "to regulate the affairs of the Society," and had said nothing definite about the election of the Council, the by-laws, I should think, would have covered that business. But the Charter lays down in express terms how the election is to be conducted, and it seems hardly likely that by-laws subverting the specific provisions of the Charter could have been contemplated.

SECTION XXI. OF THE PHARMACY ACT, 1868, may be of use, but it is not a perfect reply. The Charter says the members of the Society "shall and may" once a year "assemble . . . and proceed by method of ballot to nominate and appoint the members of the Council . . . and five auditors." An Act of Parliament may certainly amend the Charter, but neither custom nor by-laws can do so. The Act of 1852 did not alter the prescribed method of election of

Council, and the only section in the Act of 1868 which may have done so is the one alluded to (21), which is marginally described as "voting-papers for election of Council." The section itself, however, does not mention the Council, but only "the election of officers." I do not know whether members of the Council are legally "officers." If they are, the effect of the section was to permit votes to be given "either personally or by voting-papers in a form to be defined in the by-laws"; and this section, with a slight modification as to the time of returning the voting-papers, was re-enacted in the Act of 1898. But the Charter, I think, did not regard the members of the Council as "officers," for in lines 253-7 it gives the Council power to establish and remove its officers. If I am right in this opinion, it follows that Section 21 of the 1868 Act, and Section 5 of the 1898 Act, are meaningless.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT of invalidating all the past elections of Council, I have no idea. Apparently Mr. Paterson and his friends do not intend to open this question, but if they can enforce their contention and carry the nomination and appointment of a Council for next year in the manner contemplated at the next annual meeting of the Society, the question will open itself.

A SELECT COMMITTEE of either House of Parliament offers a form of intellectual entertainment which is not widely known. The Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Earlier Closing of Shops, which now meets once a week or so to take evidence, is of particular interest to a good many persons engaged in business, but when the first witnesses were examined on Friday of last week the public attendance did not reach twenty, including reporters. The apostle of the movement, Lord Avebury—famous in science, finance, and legislation as Sir John Lubbock—presided, and the Marquis of Salisbury, his most powerful antagonist, sat next to him. The Bishop of Winchester, the Duke of Marlborough, the Earls of Stamford, Hardwicke, Romney, and Verulam, and Lord Brassey were making gallant efforts to get inside the mysteries of shopkeeping. Lord Salisbury, though he does not know it, is almost the only faithful disciple of the old Manchester *laissez faire* school left, and his occasional sarcastic, almost spiteful, interpositions considerably brighten the proceedings. "When is the man to buy his boots?" he asked when the hard case of a dock-labourer who could not get to shops till 9 or 10 P.M., was being discussed. The more thoughtful housewives do their shopping early, said Mr. Stacey, the Secretary of the Early-closing Association. "But apart from their merits," asked the Prime Minister, "who are the more numerous, the early or the late shoppers?"

LORD SALISBURY seems possessed with the notion that this Bill is a conspiracy of tradesmen against customers. The answer to most of his comments is that in districts where late shopping is inevitable its provisions would not be adopted. Another of his points is that an hour's earlier closing would mean an increased staff of assistants. This is not certain. Shops with large staffs already close early; it is the smallest shops which are open the latest. And all the evidence available goes to show that shorter hours do not limit the output of work. This has been proved at least in factories. "It is the long hours of labour in foreign countries which save us from the effect of their competition," said the late Mr. Mundella. And the practical proof of this theory has been given in many instances. The late Sir Isaac Holden had mills in Yorkshire and in France. Both turned out the same class of work, and similar machines were used in both. In France the hours of labour were seventy-two per week, in Yorkshire fifty-six. Wages were lower for the seventy-two hours in France than for the fifty-six hours in Yorkshire, but Sir Isaac left it on record that he could comb wool more cheaply at his Yorkshire works.

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Editorial Comments.

Early Closing.

LORD AVEBURY's effort to win the House of Lords to his way of thinking in respect to the early closing of shops is somewhat heroic considering the apathy that peers, and especially the Leader of the House, have shown on the question. But the Committee over which Lord Avebury is now presiding is not so apathetic as some of our daily papers say. Indeed, we have been struck by the eager interest that members show in the matter, while a few of them, such as the Bishop of Winchester and Lord Brassey, seem to be well posted in regard to the conditions of labour in open shops conducted in or near industrial centres. The Bill now before the House of Lords is of direct interest to chemists and druggists. In the first measure of the kind which Lord Avebury (then Sir John Lubbock) introduced into the House of Commons it was proposed to exclude chemists and druggists, but there was then expressed a strong feeling on the part of chemists and druggists that they were anxious to participate in the advantage of somewhat earlier closing and in the half holiday, and accordingly they are now included with provision to meet the convenience of the public as regards the supply of medicines, which thus secures to pharmacists the right claimed for them that they should be able to supply remedies for the sick at any time. It will be remembered that in 1883 we issued 10,000 voting-papers to chemists and druggists throughout the United Kingdom, and although less than one-fourth of these were returned to us we found 1,330 to be in favour of compulsory closing and only 734 against. In 1895, when the Editor of this journal was called to give evidence before a Select Committee of the House of Commons,

we sent similar voting-papers to Liverpool, Birmingham, and Brighton as typical centres, and then had from Liverpool 106 votes for the Bill, 10 against, and 3 neutral; from Birmingham 101 for, 11 against, and 6 neutral; and from Brighton 35 for, 6 against, and 3 neutral. We have this week sent to Secretaries of all local Associations in the United Kingdom a letter and questions to the following effect:—

I desire to call your attention to this measure, which was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Avebury on March 11, and now awaits a second reading. In the meantime a Select Committee of Peers is taking evidence in regard to the proposals of the Bill, and Lord Avebury, as Chairman of the Committee, is anxious that the opinion of pharmaceutical chemists, chemists and druggists, and registered druggists should be ascertained as far as possible, and submitted to the Committee. The most expeditious manner of doing this is to address local associations. I therefore enclose a copy of the Bill, and ask you to be good enough, after consultation with your President, or the members in meeting assembled, to answer the annexed questions. I may state briefly that the object of the Bill is to enable shopkeepers, in defined districts, to determine by vote the hours for closing of shops. Two-thirds must vote for early closing before the resolution can be enforced by the local authority, and the hour of closing must not be earlier than 7 P.M., except on one day per week, when 1 P.M., or later, but not earlier, may be agreed upon. Clause 9 especially applies to our business. It is in the following terms:—

A pharmaceutical chemist, or chemist and druggist, or registered druggist, shall not be liable to any fine under this Act for supplying medicines, drugs, or medical appliances, after the hour appointed by an order made under this Act for the closing of shops; but this section shall not be deemed to authorise the shop of a pharmaceutical chemist, or chemist and druggist, to be open after the said hour, save so far as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

It will be observed from the memorandum which prefaces the Bill that the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons have approved of the principle of the measure, and this is, to pharmacists, a most important consideration. I should be glad to have your reply to the questions not later than Wednesday, March 27.

The questions referred to are as follows:—

1. Do you agree that the early closing of shops by Statute is desirable?
2. Does the local-option principle of Lord Avebury's Bill satisfy you as a practical proposal?
3. Will the exemption extended to chemists by Clause 9 jeopardise the freedom of the public in obtaining medicine at any hour?
4. Do you approve of the terms of Clause 9?
5. Would you alter Clause 9 in any way?
6. What is the common hour of closing in your district?

We do not anticipate that the traditions of British pharmacy will be departed from in the votes that are returned to us. It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was founded almost upon an early-closing basis, and although there has been much improvement since Mr. Jacob Bell urged his colleagues in the City of London to greater regard for the health of their employes than was manifested by keeping candles and oil-lamps burning until towards midnight, there is still room for improvement. Perhaps the members of local associations will give the matter their attention. We have sent the letters to the Secretaries of Associations named on pages 217-218 of *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY* for 1901, and to several other Associations which have since been formed. In large towns where there are no associations we should be glad if some subscriber would canvass his district for opinions on the subject, which will enable him to answer the above questions and send the replies to us, indicating the number of chemists represented by the consensus of opinion.

Nominating Councillors.

MR. PATERSON'S allegation that the present and past methods of electing the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain are *ultra vires* is becoming quite interesting. "Xrayser" rather lends his strong support to Mr. Paterson for the reasons stated on his weekly page, but he desires further information. Many other members of the Society are probably in the same frame of mind, and we endeavour in what follows to give, without colouring and with as little comment as we can, the earliest facts in regard to the Council elections.

First, however, it is desirable to dispose of the scepticism in regard to members of Council being "officers." The charter itself shows that they are, for it says certain persons "shall be the first members of the Council . . . and shall continue such until the first general meeting for the election of officers shall be held in pursuance of these presents." Further on the charter provides for the election of auditors and members of Council at the general meeting. This election is the only election provided for by charter at the annual general meetings in May, therefore "officers" means "auditors" and "members of Council." The only other meaning that can be attached to the word "officers" is salaried persons in the employment of the Society, but these are referred to in the charter as "subordinate officers." Apart from the charter the earliest records of the Society show that "officers" meant auditors and members of Council. Thus at the second annual meeting when the charter had just been obtained, and its terms were fresh in the minds of those who had obtained it, one of them, Mr. C. J. Payne, remarked to the members "there was no further business except the election of officers." Auditors and councillors were then elected, and no other officers.

We find that Mr. Paterson's contention that nomination, as well as election, is enjoined to take place at the annual general meeting is not inconsistent with the early practice of the Society. The laws and regulations first formulated and followed before the charter included one under "Election and Powers of Council" in these words:—

Any member desirous of nominating another to any office must express the same in writing to the Secretary at least six weeks before the day of election, being previously assured that such member named will accept the office if elected.

Incidentally we may mention that at the first annual meeting of the Society this section of the "laws" was amended by the removal of the words "being a member of the Society," which were applicable to the person appointed Secretary, so that Mr. Mackenzie's contention on that score (see *C. & D.*, March 9, page 419) comes sixty years too late. The Council set about framing new by-laws as soon as the charter was obtained, and these were circulated to the members. In 1845 it was again stated in the annual report that the by-laws had been revised according to the charter, and at the annual meeting, "no other candidates being nominated, the Chairman declared the foregoing members [fourteen nominees for the Council and five as auditors] to have been duly elected members of the Council and auditors." This is the first reference to nomination at the annual meetings. Little interest was taken in the election by the members generally. Mr. Jacob Bell felt this, and in an editorial in the *Journal* for April, 1843, he urged the members to exercise their "privilege in the nomination and election of officers. If they neglect this duty (he continued), the Council becomes a self-elected body, as it is their duty to make the needful arrangements for the election, which includes the preparation of balloting-papers; and if no other names are proposed, the list nominated by the Council

must of necessity be elected." We italicise a portion to save comment. The revision of the by-laws was guided by a solicitor in whom the Council had exceptional confidence, and who was exceedingly particular about keeping within the charter provisions. The earliest copy of the by-laws revised according to the charter which we have is dated June 4, 1851, and in it we find the nomination by-law to be in the following terms:—

Any member desirous of nominating another for election as a member of Council or an auditor, and of having the name of such party included in the list of candidates after-mentioned, must give notice to the Secretary before the 1st of April in each year; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to ascertain that every member put in nomination will, if elected, accept the office, or in default of such nomination, the Council shall prepare a list of not less than fourteen candidates as members of Council and also five candidates as auditors, and the parties so named shall respectively be submitted for election at the annual meeting.

At the annual meeting in 1852 the power of nomination was recognised. We read, "Mr. Hambrook, of Dover, and Mr. Edward Evans, of Liverpool, having been nominated, in addition to the list already issued, as members of Council," scrutineers were appointed, and they reported before the meeting adjourned. This is the last bit of evidence of nomination at the annual meeting. The Pharmacy Act was passed in the following month, and contained a provision (Section iii.) respecting election of officers to the effect that votes might be given personally or by post "by voting-papers . . . in a form to be defined in the by-laws, and . . . transmitted to the Secretary five clear days prior to the day on which the election is to take place." Nomination at the annual general meeting thus became impossible. The Act did not provide the machinery for postal or prior nomination, for the probable reason that that machinery had been in existence since the foundation of the Society, and had been approved by the Crown authorities in the approval of the 1843 and subsequent by-laws. In the *Pharmaceutical Journal* for May, 1853, a list of eighteen candidates for the fourteen Council vacancies was published as a notice, this being the first of the kind, although under the old by-laws. The new by-laws agreed to on May 11, 1853, did not, as far as we can gather, touch the Council nomination, but at the annual meeting "the voting-papers which had been transmitted from the country in accordance with the Act of Parliament were opened in the presence of the Chairman and, with the votes of the members present, handed to the scrutineers." It is worth noting that the page on which this is recorded also contains a statement by Mr. Jacob Bell in regard to passing the by-laws *seriatim* or *en bloc*: "He held in his hand a report of the words of the Chairman, which had been dictated by the solicitor, to the effect that the meeting could either vote on the by-laws as a whole or *seriatim*, but could not initiate any new by-law." As Section xxi. of the 1858 Act deals with the voting-papers for the election of Council, Section iii. of the 1852 Act was repealed by 38 and 39 Vict., cap. lxxvi. To sum up, the records show (1) that nomination prior to the annual meeting was originally intended and exercised, and has been authorised under charter and by-law by the Crown authorities; (2) nomination at the annual meeting was permitted, but ceased when the 1852 Act passed, because (3) it was inconsistent with the postal voting provided by the Act. Mr. Paterson returns to the charge in this issue, but we have nothing to add to the foregoing (written before his letter was received) except that the by-laws are binding until their illegality is proved, and that the provision in Section iii. of the 1852 Act clearly implies abrogation of nomination at the annual meetings; for how could votes be cast five days before such nominations? The provisions of Section iii. were modified in the 1868 and 1898 Acts.

South African Tariffs.

Now that we are within measurable distance of the resumption of industries and trade throughout the whole of South Africa, the fact again comes to the surface that there are half-a-dozen British colonies there, and each has its own Customs arrangements. Naturally these give trouble, and we received by the last mail some instances of the anomalies which also afflict traders, although only two colonies are dealt with—Cape Colony and Natal. The anomalies refer to druggists' articles which are imported into South Africa from England to a considerable extent, and we bring the whole together in tabular style so as to enforce the comparison. The table shows the duties imposed at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Durban respectively on the articles enumerated, and a little comparison will show one or two anomalous instances where the duty imposed at one port does not coincide with that applied on a similar article at one or both of the other ports, although, of course, Durban, being in a distinct colony, need not follow the Cape's lead.

The interpretation of the tariff on several articles peculiar to the drug-trade is open to criticism, especially when the line comes to be drawn between "Drugs for Dispensing-purposes" paying 7½ per cent. and "Medicinal Preparations" paying 20 per cent. duty. It would seem, for instance, that an article like glycerin when in bulk is a drug, while, if bottled in 2, 4, or 8 oz. bottles, it is a medicinal preparation. Hewlett's liquors under the old tariff of 1897 were considered a patent or proprietary medicine, but under the 1898 tariff these have been lowered to the standard of "Drugs for Dispensing-purposes." It will be noted, however, that at Durban, when these are classed as "Prepared Medicines," the higher duty is imposed. Pills of any description, whether of B.P. formula or not, are considered a "Medicinal Preparation," although pill-masses are treated as "Drugs." Infants' foods, such as Benger's and Mellin's, are classed as apothecary's ware and unmedicated foods, but we question if the Customs people would know the difference if the problem was put before them. Ebliman's embrocation (except in Natal, where the horse embrocation is excluded at the lower rate of duty) pays the enhanced duty as a medicinal preparation, which strikes one as strange when it is remembered how tender the Cape Government are with the farming interests in the colony. Tinctures in any size containers pay 7½ per cent. as "Drugs," which is a great hardship on the poor wine-farmer of the Western Province of Cape Colony, who is only getting 15s. per gal. for 65-per-cent. duty-paid spirit at present. Tinctures cannot be profitably made at the Cape under these circumstances. For instance, tr. camph. co., exported from this country at its present price in bond of, say, 4s. to 5s. per gal., could be landed in Cape Colony or Natal at less than the price of the spirit necessary for its manufacture if bought in the colony. Concentrated waters, liquid extracts, spirit of nitre, and spt. ammon. arom. all come under the same heading—in fact, all spirituous preparations are so treated with the exception of absolute alcohol, which pays a duty of 26s. 3d per gal.

In a covering letter which came to us with some of these statistics, one of the leading pharmacists in Cape Colony mentions incidentally that stamp-duty on English patents must be included in the invoice declaration, as is the case in Victoria (see *C. & D.*, March 16, page 433). He also mentions that it is a contravention of the Customs Act not to include in an invoice the value of containers for tinctures. There is need for greater uniformity in the colonial tariffs, both in respect to the amounts and the methods of imposition, and this is one of the earliest problems which awaits settlement by a peaceful and reunited South Africa.

Article	Duty at Cape Town	Duty at Port Elizabeth	Duty at Durban
Camphorated chalk (creta camph.) ...	7½ per cent.	20 per cent. in small boxes; 7½ per cent. in bulk	20 per cent. (perfumery for toilet use)
Capsules containing, say, male fern or santal oil	20 per cent.	20 per cent.	20 per cent. (for all capsules, pills, troches, &c.)
Condy's fluid (in drums)	Free (as disinfectant)	Free (as disinfectant)	7½ per cent. (charged as drug)
Jeyes' fluid (in drums)	Free (as disinfectant)	Free (as disinfectant)	Free (as disinfectant)
Elliman's "Royal" embrocation (veterinary)	20 per cent.	20 per cent. (medical preparation)	7½ per cent. (horse medicine)
Elliman's "Universal" embrocation ...	20 per cent.	20 per cent.	20 per cent. (human medicine)
Hall's, and other coca-wines, or medicinal wines	20 per cent.	9s. per gal. plus 7½ per cent. on English value when in bottles	9s. per gal. plus 7½ per cent. <i>ad val.</i> if containing alcohol
Hewlett's preparations, such as liq. santal. co., mist. pepsine co.	7½ per cent. (as drugs for dispensing)	7½ per cent.	20 per cent. <i>ad val.</i> ; classed as prepared medicines; Hew- lett's standardised tinctures would be 7½ per cent. <i>ad val.</i>
Infants' food (Mellin's, Bengers, &c.) ...	7½ per cent.	7½ per cent. (classed as apothecary's ware)	7½ per cent.
Parrish's food (syr. ferri phosph. co.) ...	20 per cent.	20 per cent. small bottles; 7½ per cent. in bulk	20 per cent.
Pills, of Pharmacopœia formulæ, in bulk	20 per cent.	7½ per cent. pills in mass, 20 per cent. rolled	20 per cent. (as prepared medi- cines)
Tinctures (in drums)	7½ per cent.	7½ per cent.	7½ per cent.
Tinctures (Winchester bottles)	7½ per cent.	7½ per cent.	7½ per cent.

"PREPOSTEROUS NONSENSE."

Some newspaper correspondents should be taken care of. One, who calls himself "Truth and Justice," writes to the *Manchester Daily Dispatch* in regard to the Pharmacy Bill, which, he says, "is better known amongst the drysaltery, oil, and colour trades as the Pharmacy-Bolstering Act. The Act has for its object the scheduling of all trade poisons, consequently the taking the bread out of the mouths of the members of another branch of the drug-trade—viz. the drysalter, oil and colour man—men who have carried on their lawful trade unmolested for centuries past. Should this Act pass, all trade poisons—such as ammonia, aqua fortis, spirits of salts, caustic soda, potash, saltpetre, green paint, and many such like—will only be able to be obtained at a pharmacy. What preposterous nonsense!" It is so, on the part of "Truth and Justice," but his letter is a good example of the arguments which prejudice the public against the educated and qualified custodians of the lethal weapons which the Legislature has put in their hands.

ROOM FOR BRITISH SYMPATHY.

German pharmacy is at present convulsed by two great questions—an extra charge for night-work and Sunday-closing. Petitions in respect to both have been presented, but the first was refused and consideration of the second postponed. The agitation is chiefly amongst the country apothekers, who either work single-handed or have only an apprentice. As to an extra charge for night duty, it varies from an "entrance-fee" of sixpence to charging three times the "taxe" price. The Sunday-closing petition consists of the modest request to have a couple of hours during which the apotheker may be perfectly free, and to enable him to do this various proposals are put forward such as to give doctors a key to the apotheker, so that they can fetch what they like should anything occur; or every doctor might be furnished with a special parcel of dressings, disinfectants, injections, &c. Opponents of this suggestion say that the doctors will get into the habit of keeping such things to the apotheker's loss. The Apotheker Council has now taken the matter in hand to work out a Bill. The German daily papers generously allow the apotheker some rest provided he attend when necessary without delay. In most country places in Germany, we may point out, Sunday is the busiest day. We may also call attention to the fact that German pharmacy is regarded by some English pharmacists to be ideal from the protection point of view, but it has its disadvantages. How, for example, would our West London friends feel if they were not allowed to close when they liked?

INCANDESCENT MANTLES.

A reply which we printed a few weeks ago in regard to the use of incandescent gas-mantles not made by the owners of the Welsbach patents has brought us some interesting correspondence from subscribers who have been threatened with legal proceedings by the Welsbach Company. The trouble is due to so-called "guaranty mantles," made or sold by the Union Chemical-works, against whom the Welsbach Company in August, 1900, began an action and obtained an interim injunction. In November, 1900 however, the Welsbach Company discontinued their action, and started a new one relating to the same facts. That came before Mr. Justice Day, who again granted an interlocutory injunction pending a trial. Against this injunction the United Chemical-works appealed, and the Master of the Rolls on November 13 last held that the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to expedite the trial; but he set aside Mr. Justice Day's injunction, and ordered that the defendants should keep an account of their sales until the trial. The case is, therefore, still pending, and meanwhile the Welsbach Company have proceeded against infringers, and we have been informed that hundreds of summonses have been issued. One of these submitted to us is a lithographed document, and although it has been served it is not completely filled up. Some have ignored the summonses, and nothing has happened to them; others have paid up, and are sorry; but the fact which our subscribers should keep in mind is that the manufacturers of the "guaranty" mantles are the defendants in an action for infringement of the Welsbach patents. If that action goes against the United Chemical-works, users and sellers of the mantles must be prepared to share the consequences. The case which we reported on March 9 has, we are informed, a direct bearing upon the issue.

YELLOW FEVER.

Apropos of our last week's note on this subject, we observe that in a paper read to the Pan-American Medical Congress, held last month at Havana, Surgeon Reed and Assistant-Surgeons Carroll and Agromonte, who have been trying to cultivate a bacillus which had been suspected by Dr. Sanarelli to be the cause of yellow fever, reported that their experiments disproved this suggestion, but that during their investigations a species of mosquito abundant in Cuba (*Culex fasciatus*) fell under suspicion as a means of conveying the disease. A number of persons who had never had yellow fever were taken to an isolated camp in a yellow-fever district, where they lived under conditions similar to those under which Dr. Sambon and Lowe lived in the Campagna.

After staying there in good health for a time sufficient to show that they had not received infection before their arrival, they were bitten by specimens of the *culex* which had fed on patients suffering from yellow fever. They became infected, and passed through typical forms of the disease, the nature of which was verified by physicians having large experience of it. So yellow fever is, like malaria, carried by mosquitos. Nevertheless, Professor Rubert Boyce, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, points out in a letter to the *Times* that Drs. Durham and Walter Myers, of that school, on their way out to Para spent a short time with the American observers in Havana, and there studied and briefly reported upon the relationship of mosquitos to this disease; but in Para their researches enabled them to announce the discovery in yellow fever of a previously unrecorded minute bacillus. It will be remembered that these young investigators, knowing the risks of infection, took every precaution, but, after conducting an autopsy on a very malignant case of yellow fever, both contracted the disease, and Dr. Myers died; therefore, the disease is microbic.

ADVERTISING BY DENTISTS.

The report of the inquiry by the Dental Committee of the General Medical Council, which we printed last week, shows that the Medical Defence Union is disposed to force the hand of the Council in regard to advertising. We again protest against the easy manner in which the Council authorities summon the supposed offenders to London, and put them to expense which, in some cases at any rate, is entirely uncalled for. In this connection we are indebted to a provincial correspondent for a reprint copy of the *Leeds Mercury* of March 7, 1901, which contains the following advertisement:—

MR. LESEC,
Surgeon-dentist,
(Late from York)

RESPECTFULLY informs his Friends and the Public in general, That, by the Request of several of the First Families of this County, he is induced to make LONDON the Place of his Residence; where he has taken a House, No. 12 Hanover Street, Hanover Square.

MR. LESEC intends to visit Yorkshire once a year, which will be in the Month of August.

N.B.—His DENTRIFICE and TOOTH-BRUSHES are sold as usual, by Mr. Binns, Bookseller, Bottom of Briggate, and Mr. Tuke, Boar Lane, Leeds.

P.S.—It being insinuated that Mr. Lescq has recommended a Person as Dentist, to succeed him during his Absence from York, begs Leave to say that he has no Knowledge of any Person sufficiently qualified for such Recommendation.

This goes to show that advertising by dentists is of somewhat ancient date, and, therefore, the action of the General Medical Council is an interference with an established custom that was not contemplated by the framers of the Dentists Act.

Photographic Notes.

By a Pharmaceutical Camerist.

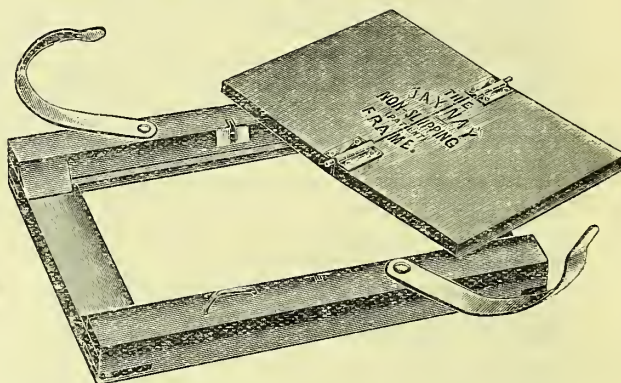
THE "IRIS" SHUTTER.

A new Thornton-Pickard shutter is being placed on the market. It is a departure from the usual roller-blind principle which the Thornton-Pickard Company has made so popular in that it is a metal diaphragm shutter more like the Bausch & Lomb Company's instrument. The manufacturers' reputation is such that a well-finished shutter may be expected, but until I have made a practical trial I prefer not to pass judgment. The shutter, with ball and tube and flange, is to sell at 25s.

NON-SLIPPING PRINTING-FRAME.

Messrs. Barclay & Sons (Limited), 95 Farringdon Street E.C., have taken up the agency for a new non-slipping printing-frame called the "Jaynay." There have been many

non-slipping printing-frames introduced within the last few years, some of them of fearful and wonderful make, but the "Jaynay" seems to be one of the simplest contrivances for preventing movement during printing yet devised. The



hinges of the back have projecting pins, which fit into metal grooves in the frame, and so prevent slipping of the prints. The illustration explains the point I refer to.

WATKINS' METERS.

The Watkins' Meter Company, Hereford, inform me that they are bringing out a new dial-exposure meter to sell at 8s 6d., destined to supersede the watch-pattern meter. A novelty in meters is a new shilling one, which should sell well. It is suitable for use with hand-camera such as the "Nipper," "Brownie," and pocket-Kodak, in indoor and dull-light photography. A tint is compared with the discoloration of sensitive paper in the usual way. Each meter has paper for 200 exposures, but refills



are not supplied.

THE P.T.A.

Amongst those who were present at the inaugural meeting of the Photographic Trade Association on March 11 I noticed Mr. Zerfli (Ilford, Limited), Messrs. G., E. H., and C. E. Houghton, Mr. E. J. Wall (The European Blair Camera Company), Mr. F. W. Hindley (J. Fallowfield), Mr. G. Needham (Lennon, Limited), Mr. G. M. Bishop (Marion & Co.), Mr. Sanger (J. Sanger & Sons), Mr. J. J. Shew (Shew & Co.), Mr. H. Lonsdale (Lonsdale Brothers), Mr. J. E. Thornton (Thornton Film Company, Limited), Mr. F. Pickering (F. Newbery & Co.), Mr. Sinclair (Ross, Limited), and Messrs. W. F. and F. E. Butcher (Butcher & Sons). Letters regretting absence were read from, amongst others, Mr. Geo. Barclay (Barclay & Sons, Limited) and Mr. W. L. Parkinson (Evans, Sons & Co., Limited). I do not know to whom the notices of the meeting were sent. I did not receive one, and only heard of the meeting that afternoon. A short notice in the *C. & D.* would have probably made the meeting more representative of retailers. There was a good deal of argument of little general interest as to the election of the committee and officers, but the part which interested everyone most was the short discussion on the Kodak agreement. Mr. Geo. Houghton gave an account of an interview he and Mr. Hindley had with the Kodak Company, which left the matter in an unsatisfactory state. Several manufacturers intimated that if no action was taken by the Association, film and camera makers might be compelled to appeal direct to the public, and thus do without the middleman. Mr. Thornton had legal opinion on the matter, which was that dealers should accept the goods and ignore the conditions. The Association, he suggested, might take up a test-action in case of a prosecution. Eventually it was agreed to send out a circular to all dealers, asking whether or not they approved of the new Kodak regulation.

DARK-ROOM.

Mr. W. Murray Maxton, chemist, Kelso, N.B., has fitted up a dark-room for his customers' use.

THE KODAK AGREEMENT.

BELOW we print (1) all expressions of opinion which we have received in favour of the Kodak agreement referred to in last week's *C. & D.*, page 444, and (2) a selection only from opinions against, as we have not space for all:—

FOR.

We think Kodak are quite justified in claiming the loyal support of the trade in their endeavour to discourage imitations of their rollable films. (104/65.)

The action of Kodak (Limited) will prove rather a boon than otherwise to dealers in general, inasmuch as it will mean one stock of films only, instead of, perhaps, three or four other makers. (106/68.)

I hold that the people who made the film business are entitled to monopolise it as far as they can by legal means. It will pay dealers best to keep to standard goods, and very possibly it will pay rival makers of both films and apparatus to appeal to the public direct. (105/68.)

AGAINST.

It is against the principles of "free trade." (107/63.)

Shall refuse to stock their goods until such restrictions are withdrawn. (106/69.)

Far better for Kodak to have met competition by reducing their prices for films and increased dis. to dealers. (106/38.)

Dealers must supply what is asked for. Let Kodak goods stand on their own merits, and the public will discriminate. (105/2.)

The proposed coercion is unaccountable, and quite unlike Kodak, who have hitherto defied, rather than feared, competition. (107/67.)

I should think Kodak could maintain their business, if the article is so good, without resorting to the present method. (107/69.)

All chemists grumble to the Kodak traveller who calls, and he tells each one that his is the only complaint they have received. (106/22.)

I cannot imagine such a firm deluding themselves into the belief that they will receive the support of the dealers in this action. (106/42.)

I shall hail with pleasure any new film-apparatus by other makers. The Kodak action is certain to bring a lot of good film-apparatus in the market. (105/69.)

If the individuality of the retailer is to continue to exist it must be laid down once for all that the principle of stipulating prices of resale must not be expanded. (105/3.)

If Kodak films are the best in the market they need not fear competition. If they are not, then it is better that the best should have a free field and oust them. (105/70.)

I do not keep any roller-films except Eastman's; at the same time I strongly resent being dictated to. In my opinion the attempt is foredoomed to failure. (106/40.)

The position Kodak have taken will prove a veritable Spion Kop. Their action is unprecedented and unwarranted. They must meet competition by recognised methods. (105/63.)

It is so much of the nature of boycotting that Englishmen will have none of it; and it is only a question of a little time when the company will realise that neither the public nor the dealer will submit to dictation. (107/59.)

The principle is wrong on the face of it—if Kodak cannot prevent the making and advertising of and demand for other makes, surely they have no right to step in and even try to prevent the dealer selling them. (106/41.)

Though we have not up to date stocked any other kind of film-cameras than Kodak, we hardly see our way to bind ourselves not to sell other makes, which might, in our opinion, or in that of our customers, be improvements upon your apparatus. (105/30.)

I feel sure the agreement will be largely ignored by retailers, for in these days of keen competition a retailer cannot afford to offend his customers by refusing to supply goods wanted. Surely if Kodak (Limited) have confidence in their films they might be willing to meet legitimate competition in the same spirit that other firms do. (106/69.)

I shall do all I can to preserve my personal right to freely sell any legitimate article of trade. I think if once the retail traders of this country allow dictation of this kind they will bitterly regret it. Kodak (Limited) are only exposed to the ordinary competition to which all patentees whose rights have expired are liable. If their spoils are used for other films than theirs, they have their remedy. To attempt therefore to practically extend their patent-rights by threatening retailers is quite American, but I shall be surprised if such a foreign plant readily acclimatises here. (105/20.)

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

AN evening meeting was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday evening, March 20, Mr. Peter Boa presiding.

The first paper was read on

ADRENALIN,

by Mr. T. MABEN, who said that for some time past considerable attention had been paid to the therapeutics of the suprarenal gland, suprarenal capsule, or adrenal substance, as it is variously termed. The object of this note was to describe the properties of the adrenal substance. If a solution be applied to mucous membranes, the parts shrink and become bloodless, this effect being more marked in inflammatory conditions. The result is due to the contraction of the plain muscle fibres of the blood-vessels when the solution is applied locally, and in that way it acts as a decided astringent or hemostatic. It is not a styptic, such as iron, and it does not cause coagulation of the blood and seal the bleeding points with clots. The remedy is specially indicated in inflammatory conditions of the eye, nose, throat, larynx, and ear. Instilled into the inflamed eye, a drop of the suprarenal or adrenal liquid produces an almost immediate whitening of the conjunctivæ, unaccompanied by either contraction or dilation of the pupil, and thus after anaesthetisation by cocaine, or its substitutes, painless and bloodless operations can be performed. In nasal operations it is valuable. An attack of acute coryza can usually be aborted by an application of the liquid.

The drug has, until recently, been used in tablet form, consisting of the desiccated gland. Solutions keep badly, but last year a satisfactory one was introduced, the preservative being chlorotone. This liquid when freshly prepared is perfectly clear and water-white, but it rapidly becomes brown in colour. Recently the active principle has been isolated by Dr. Jokichi Takamine, and by him named adrenalin. It occurs in very fine crystals, of a greyish colour. The chemical constitution of adrenalin has not yet been determined, but it is probably alkaloidal. It is exceedingly difficult to dissolve, and is, therefore, sent out in a 1-to-1,000 solution. The solution has the great advantage of accurate dosage, and it may be used internally instead of the ordinary preparations of the gland as a cardiac stimulant.

Mr. J. R. HILL said he had made some inquiry as to whether this substance is in use as a medicine in Edinburgh, but so far as he had discovered it does not appear to be. He did not know what ground there might be for saying that the substance is alkaloidal in its nature, and he would like to have the point cleared up. He thought it might be albuminoid.

Mr. MABEN, in reply, said he had no experimental grounds of his own to go upon in saying adrenalin is alkaloidal, but it is sent out in the form of chloride. He thought it possible it would be alkaloidal. With regard to the substance being used in Edinburgh, as far as he knew it is hardly used anywhere, as it has only just come to this country.

Mr. DOTT then read

A NOTE ON SOME B.P. EXTRACTS.

This was a criticism of a recent paper in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* by Mr. Edmund White. Mr. Dott's remarks were followed by a discussion equally critical both of the original paper and its author. Messrs. MABEN, NESBIT, DUNCAN, McDIARMID, and HENRY contributed to the discussion, Mr. McDiarmid defending Mr. White. The practical point of the discussion was the B.P. method of making extract of belladonna.

The next paper was on

THE VOLUMETRIC DETERMINATION OF PHENOL

by Mr. JAS. TOCHER, F.I.C., who described recorded methods as well as experimental work done by himself, and from which he arrived at the opinion that phenol could be deter-

mined volumetrically by oxidation with permanganate in the absence of other oxidisable substances. The titration may be carried out as follows:—Phenol, 1 gramme, is dissolved in water, 1,000 c.c. and 10 c.c. = (0.01 C_6H_5OH) taken for titration. About 3 to 4 grammes $NaHCO_3$ is added, together with a little distilled water. Fifty cubic centimetres decinormal permanganate is now added, the liquid boiled for five minutes, and then set aside to cool a little. Dilute H_2SO_4 is now added gradually until the mixture is neutralised, and then to decided excess. The mixture is now warmed to $60^\circ C.$, and decinormal oxalic acid added, with stirring, until the colour is discharged. If the phenol is pure, 29.78 c.c. permanganate will be deoxidised.

Mr. DUNCAN pointed out that this process is only applicable for carbolic acid. They still required to have a process for carbolic acid in the presence of other things.

Mr. HILL spoke of the need of some reliable volumetric method, because the bromine method is complicated and not very handy to apply. They needed a method to enable them to estimate carbolic acid in the heterogeneous mixtures of homologues of phenol. Mr. Hill then read a communication on

AUSTRALIAN BITTER-BARK,

by Dr. J. Gordon Sharp, Leeds. The author described the botanical origin (*Alstonia constricta*, N.O. *Apocynaceae*—Alston was professor of botany in Edinburgh from 1740 to 1761) of this well-known drug (dita-bark), and the history of its introduction into medicine. He referred to other species of the genus (*A. scholaris* especially), also to the chemistry of the bark. Dr. Otto Hesse has isolated from it three alkaloids—ditamine, echitamine, and echiterine. The action of ditamine is said to be like that of curarine—it paralyses the motor-nerve endings. *A. spectabilis*, R Br., yields the pollé-bark of Java. It is closely allied to *A. scholaris*, and may be mistaken for it, but it is much more bitter, and in that respect resembles *A. constricta*. It yields six times more ditamine than dita-bark. The barks are employed in the treatment of dysentery, diarrhoea, malaria, and debilitating diseases. The compilers of the Indian and Colonial Addendum to the Pharmacopoeia make no distinction between *A. constricta* and *A. scholaris* so far as it deals with the tinctures and infusion. The author said the Indian bark might be generally employed in India, and the Australian bark in Australasia; but the preparations are sure to be used to some extent in other colonies and in the home countries, and if a medical man prescribes the tincture or infusion of alstonia, it is left to the option of the dispenser to supply either. *A. scholaris* preparations are light in colour, and pleasantly bitter, while the *A. constricta* preparations are darker, and very bitter; and if one pharmacist supplies the first and his neighbour the second, the next time the patient has his prescription dispensed it may lead to confusion. It should be noted that the tincture and infusion are simply called tincture or infusion of alstonia—the specific name is not given. In the author's opinion the dose of the tincture made from *A. constricta* is too large. It should be 5 to 20 minims, and not $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fl. dr. The dose of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fl. dr. is appropriate for the *A. scholaris* preparation. After referring to the history, names, and ulterior uses of the bark Dr. Sharp indicated the requisite tests, and described somewhat fully the physiological properties of the active constituents of the barks.

Mr. LUNAN said it was ten years since he dispensed alstonia, but now that it is in the Addendum it is very important to know the great difference between the barks, and they were much indebted to Dr. Sharp for bringing the subject before them.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the meeting that Dr. Sharp was at one time a pharmacist, and said that the fact of his recurring again and again to such subjects indicated the charm there is in the profession.

The meeting then terminated.

TO CATCH MICE.—A contributor to a Newcastle newspaper undertakes to deliver every house in Newcastle from mice on payment of a crown per house; and this without cat or dog or mongoose or trap or poison. The method is to buy birdlime from the chemist, smear it on a piece of brown paper, place crumbs of cheese within the smearing, and leave the paper thus prepared where the mice are.

Westminster Wisdom.

PRIVATE BILL.

The St. Bartholomew's Hospital Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons on March 14.

LEAD IN POTTERY.

Reports received by the Home Secretary (the Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie) from Professor Thorpe, F.R.S., principal of the Government laboratory, on the use of lead in the manufacture of pottery, have been presented in both Houses of Parliament, and ordered to lie upon the table.

SHOPS EARLY-CLOSING BILL.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to consider Lord Avebury's Bill, met in Committee-room B on Friday, March 15, at noon, when all the members of the committee were present. Lord Avebury presided, and on his left sat the Marquis of Salisbury, the Bishop of Winchester, Lord Brassey, and the Earl of Romney. On the right were the Earl of Stamford, the Earl of Verulam, the Duke of Marlborough, and the Earl of Hardwicke. Mr. J. Stacey, Secretary of the Early-closing Association, was the first witness, and the Chairman put to him leading questions regarding the history of the early-closing movement, to which Mr. Stacey had, in the main, merely to reply "Yes" or "No." Dealing with closing in the metropolitan districts he stated that the general hour in the West-end is 7 o'clock, at second-rate shops 7 to 8, and in the lower class 9 to 9.30, excepting Saturdays, when 11 or later is the hour. Witness also stated that voluntary movements for early-closing have hitherto failed, because newcomers to a district keep open later than the older shopkeepers so as to get some trading advantage. The Bishop of Winchester next took up the examination of Mr. Stacey, and did not altogether succeed in getting the information he wanted—namely, as to why the poorer classes shop so late. Witness gave as one reason why shops are kept open late, the desire of working-men and their wives to take their recreation in the streets, which they would not do if the shops were not brightly lighted. The Marquis of Salisbury and other members of the Committee also questioned the witness.

Mr. Aubrey Rees, Secretary to the National Association of Grocers' Assistants, was next called. To him the Chairman put two or three questions, when the Marquis of Salisbury, having ascertained that Mr. Rees had been a grocer's assistant, began to do most of the questioning. Witness stated that his Association had taken a census from members in different parts of London, and representing 368 shops. They found that 79 hours a week is the average period of employment in grocers' shops, but in many cases 90 hours a week or more are the shop hours. The busiest part of the day on Saturdays is from 2.30 to 11 o'clock, but between 5 and 7 business is at its maximum. The rate of pay of grocers' assistants is between 22s. 6d. to 35s. a week. Lord Salisbury asked "If the hours are diminished will the rate of pay be diminished too?" to which the witness replied in the affirmative. He also informed his Lordship (in reference to the health conditions of the long hours of employment) that he knew of one shop where there were six assistants, and the whole of them suffered from varicose veins. The long standing in grocers' shops is conducive to this disorder, and it is very prevalent. Other members of the Committee questioned witnesses also, amongst the subjects dealt with being whether the delivery of perishable commodities late would not require the shops to be kept open later, and whether in districts where there is late shopping it would not be advisable to open the shops later in the day, say 12 o'clock, and thus give the assistant facilities for recreation, to which the witness replied that this would not give assistants the opportunity of educationally improving themselves at evening classes.

Miss Octavia Hill was the next witness, and she gave the Committee the benefit of her extensive experience amongst the poor of London, and dealt particularly with the late trading on Saturday nights and Sunday trading, on the latter subject giving the Committee information which appeared to astonish the Marquis of Salisbury.

Resuming the inquiry on Monday, the Committee examined Mr. Alfred Spencer, Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the London County Council, who said the number of shops coming under the Shop Hours Acts in London is 73,623, and of these 35,285 come more or less directly under the Acts, young persons under the age of 18 being employed within them. In 1899 and 1900 the inspectors made 230,414 inspections, and reported 23,775 infringements. The Shop Hours Acts are now strictly observed in London.

Mr. Beaumont, of Birmingham, and Mr. Williams, a North London grocer, gave evidence in support of the Bill.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re HYDE, NASH & Co., 16 Philpot Lane, E.C., Drug merchants.

A RECEIVING-ORDER has been made at the London Bankruptcy Court against R. Boyle Hyde and Thomas Nash, trading in partnership as above. Messrs. H. James & Co. attended on behalf of the debtors to file the petition. No particulars transpired regarding assets or liabilities.

Re BELL BROTHERS, Kirkcaldilloh, Manufacturing Chemists.

THE statement of affairs in this case shows liabilities 4,220*l.* and assets 369*l.* At a private meeting of creditors, held on March 13, an offer of 3*s.* in the pound, payable fourteen days after acceptance by all creditors over 1*l.*, was submitted. Creditors present agreed to accept this offer and mandatories to recommend their constituents to accept.

Re H. O. MACK (lately trading as Mack & Co., at 72 Mark Lane, E.C.), Importer and Merchant.

THE first meeting of creditors was held before Mr. G. W. Chipman, Official Receiver, last week. No statement of affairs was filed, but the liabilities were estimated at 7,000*l.*, while the assets appeared to consist chiefly of dock-warrants held by creditors as against advances made to the debtor. In 1891 he entered into partnership with another as importers and merchants of glucose, gelatin, and farina, in Mark Lane, and introduced a capital of 6,000*l.* In 1894 a dissolution was arrived at, and the debtor had since carried on the business under the style of Mack & Co. In the absence of a quorum, an adjournment was made until March 27.

Re W. F. HACKNEY, South Street, Earlsfield, S.W., Wholesale and Retail Chemist.

THE first meeting of creditors took place at the Wandsworth Official Receiver's offices, Railway Approach, London Bridge, S.E., on March 15. The debtor commenced business in South Street, Earlsfield, in September last, with a capital of 320*l.* He had not filed a statement of affairs, but he estimated his unsecured liabilities at 250*l.*, and his assets at about 250*l.* He attributed his insolvency to bad trade, depreciation in the value of his stock, fixtures, and fittings, and cost of living. Since he commenced business he had not made any net profit. He did not become aware of his insolvency until December 1 last. He had never kept any books of account. The whole of the furniture belonged to his wife, it having been given to her prior to her marriage. The estate was left in the hands of the Official Receiver for summary administration.

Re WILLIAM J. SATCHELL, Queen's Lane, Newcastle, Drysalter.

THIS debtor carried on business as druggist, drysalter, and confectioner, for about seventeen or eighteen years, the business closing in November last. During the first ten years, the business was a prosperous one, but he never saved any money. In December, 1899, he executed a deed of assignment in favour of a Mr. Allan, the business at that time being involved. The liabilities were then about 1,600*l.*, and the estimated assets 79*l.* A composition at 10*s.* in the pound was arranged, his wife guaranteeing the second and third instalments of 3*s.* 4*d.* each under a post-nuptial settlement made upon her fourteen or fifteen years ago. The liabilities in the present case were 2,010*l.* He could not explain how the difference between 1,600*l.* in the first case and the sum mentioned had occurred. The 790*l.* was a much exaggerated estimate of his assets, and the estimated amount of his assets in the present failure, 350*l.*, was a generous one. He attributed his failure to his travellers leaving him and setting up in opposition to him, and thus reducing his business. The public examination, held on March 15, at Newcastle, was adjourned for a week.

Legal Reports.

High Court Case.

CITRONELLA-SCENTED FLOUR.

IN the King's Bench Division on Tuesday, March 19, before Mr. Justice Bigham, the case of *Lawes v. the American and South African Steamship Company* was heard. It was brought to recover compensation on account of damage to 550 bags of flour by citronella oil in transit from New York on board the *Comerica*. Plaintiff said on board the vessel was a quantity of dunnage boards saturated with citronella oil, which tainted the flour. The loss to him was put at 183*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* Dr. Bernard Dyer, one of the witnesses, testified to the volatility of citronella oil. A small bottle of citronella oil was handed to his Lordship for inspection. Mr. Hamilton, K.C., said he hoped his Lordship would not break the bottle, or they would have the atmosphere of the court impregnated with the smell for a month. His Lordship (smelling the bottle): Well, I do not know, but perhaps it would be the more agreeable smell of the two. (Laughter.) His Lordship said he was satisfied that reasonable care had not been taken to prevent the smell of the oil being communicated, and gave plaintiff judgment for 100*l.* and costs accordingly.

Pharmacy Acts.

CONTRAVENTIONS PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT IN SCOTLAND.

AT the Justiciary Appeal Court, Edinburgh, on Friday, March 15, the Lord Justice General, Lord Kyllachy, and Lord Low gave judgment in the appeal of *Gardner v. Bremridge* (see *C. & D.*, March 9, page 285). It was in respect to the imposition of imprisonment as an alternative to a fine for infringement of the Pharmacy Act. The Lord Justice General, in giving judgment, quoted the provisions of Section 18, subsection 6, of the Summary Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1834, which made it clear that imprisonment was competent unless it was to be held as excluded by the Pharmacy Acts. Section 8, subsection 1, of the Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland) Act, 1881, declared that, subject to the provisions of Section 6, in all proceedings under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, where a warrant of pouncing and sale was competent, a warrant of imprisonment in default of recovery of sufficient goods should likewise be competent for a period not exceeding three months, and that the Courts should specify the term of imprisonment in the warrant. This, which was the last statutory provision on the subject, expressly provided for imprisonment, and made no mention of arrestment, and, therefore, it appeared to him that the warrant for imprisonment in default of recovery of sufficient goods must mean recovery by the method specified in the section—viz., pouncing and sale—and that it was not now essential that execution by arrestment should be authorised as under the Summary Procedure Act, 1834, as well as by pouncing and sale. For these reasons his Lordship was of opinion that the suspension should be refused.

Lord Kyllachy and Lord Low concurred.

SALE WITHOUT SIGNATURE.

AT Peterborough Police Court on Wednesday, James Edwin Saunders, chemist and druggist, Narrow Street, was summoned for selling a packet of *Battle's vermin-killer* to Ebenezer Burkitt without obtaining his signature to the poison-book. Mr. Burkitt committed suicide by taking the poison, and at the inquest on his body it came out that neither he nor his witness had signed Mr. Saunders's book in the usual way. Mr. Burkitt made a personal application in the first instance, and Mr. Saunders refused to serve him unless he was introduced by someone whom he knew. Mr. Burkitt then went away, and shortly afterwards sent the boots at the Golden Lion Hotel, where he was staying, with an envelope bearing his name and also that of Mr. J. Y. Cutlack, the proprietor. Mr. Saunders accepted this instead of having the proper signatures of the purchaser and his personal

reference. The evidence at the present hearing showed that Mr. Burkitt went into Mr. Saunders's shop and told him he had a dog he wished to poison. Mr. Saunders offered to send a man to administer the poison. Mr. Burkitt discussed various poisons, and finally asked Mr. Saunders for Battle's vermin-killer. Mr. Burkitt had been a customer at the shop on several occasions, but Mr. Saunders decided that he could not serve him until he produced a witness. Mr. Burkitt went out presumably to fetch Mr. Cutlack. In about five minutes the boots at the Golden Lion Hotel came back with an envelope signed "J. Y. Cutlack" and "E. Burkitt." Mr. Saunders thereupon supplied the poison, expecting that Mr. Cutlack would call in later and sign the register. There had been a technical breach of the Pharmacy Act, but Mr. Saunders thought the letter was a sufficient justification for supplying the poison. Mr. Burkitt was not in the least excited, and as a matter of fact he did not take the poison until some hours afterwards. There was no intention on Mr. Saunders's part to evade the requirements of the Act. It was pointed out that if Mr. Cutlack had called to sign the book there would still have been a breach of the law, because Mr. Saunders had not got the purchaser's signature. The Chairman said Mr. Saunders had taken an honest course in acknowledging that he broke the law, and they would only inflict half the maximum penalty—2*l.* 10*s.* and costs.

Pharmacy Acts (Ireland).

MITIGATION OF PENALTIES.

WE reported briefly last week the judgment in the actions against Messrs. Lafayette (Limited) and Mr. Smith, photographic dealers, in respect to the sale of poisons. Mr. Byrne then appeared for the former, and argued that the Magistrate (Mr. Swift) had power to reduce the penalty, while Mr. Collins, for the Pharmaceutical Society, argued to the contrary. The following is Mr. Swift's judgment:—

He said that the practice since 1875 had been to impose the penalty of 5*l.* in such cases as these, but there had been several departures from it, and in the years 1894 and 1895 he himself had mitigated the penalties in three cases. The first case was against Mrs. Alice Rupert, in which, under extenuating circumstances, he reduced the penalty to 1*l.* The second case was against Messrs. Fannin, where he made the penalty 3*s.* and 5*s.* costs; and in the third case—against a Mrs. Barnes—he imposed a fine of 3*l.* In these three cases he had exercised the power of mitigation, which he held he possessed; and the Society was evidently satisfied that he possessed the power, as no application was made to have these decisions reviewed. The 30th section of the Pharmacy Act stated that a person guilty of such offence shall be liable to pay a penalty of 5*l.*; it did not mention a word about "not less than 5*l.*." The case of Morgan and Kelly (quoted by Mr. Collins) was entirely distinguishable from the present cases or the ones he had previously decided, because it was not contended that the Petty Sessions Court had any power to mitigate the penalty. In the Act of 1890 the words were "not exceeding 5*l.*," and the real point was whether that subsequent Act overruled the Act of 1875. There was an English case—that of *Osborne v. Wood Brothers*—stated by the Justices of Lancashire. The prosecution was for a violation of the Cotton-cloth Factory Act of 1889, by reason of the factory atmosphere being allowed to contain more than a certain proportion of damp. In the Act of 1889 the penalty was made "not less than 5*l.*," but Section 4 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act allowed power to the Magistrates to reduce the fine. This they did, and inflicted a fine of 2*s.* Justices Wills and Wright held that the appeal must succeed, and that the Magistrates had no power to reduce the fine under the Act, which was subsequent to the Summary Jurisdiction Act. These were the three ways in which the penalty might be stated—"not exceeding 5*l.*," "not less than 5*l.*," and a "penalty of 5*l.*." In the "not exceeding 5*l.*," it was admitted that, without the mitigating section at all, the Magistrates could mitigate; in the case of "not less than 5*l.*," the penalty could not be mitigated; so that it was only in the case of "a penalty of 5*l.*," that the power of mitigation was at all required. He held he had the power. The defendants here had undertaken not to repeat the offence, and as there were two summonses against each defendant he would impose the substantial penalty of 2*l.* 10*s.* on each summons.

Mr. Collins said that the Council of the Society met on the following day. This was a serious matter for the Society, which had to protect the public from being poisoned; and, if they decided to contest his Worship's decision, he would ask leave to have a case stated, assuming that the Society desired to have the judgment reviewed.

Mr. Swift said he would certainly state a case.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

MAGNESIA PONDEROSA.

At the Lambeth Police Court on March 14 (as briefly reported last week), Mr. Francis heard a summons against Mr. Albert Pellew, chemist, Old Kent Road, for selling magnesia ponderosa which contained 30 per cent. of hydrated carbonate of magnesia, stated to be a foreign ingredient. Mr. F. W. Beck, solicitor to the Chemists' Defence Association, appeared for defendant, and cross-examined witnesses for the prosecution. One amusing point brought out was that the "doctor" who wrote a prescription used by the purchaser was the public analyst (Dr. Teed). When he got into the box, the following conversation took place:—

Mr. Beck: Perhaps I ought to apologise to you. I was not aware you were a doctor.

Witness: I am a doctor of science.

Mr. Beck: Not a doctor of medicine?

Witness: No, I am not.

Mr. Beck: You are not in the habit of writing prescriptions?

Witness: I have written them for occasions like this.

Mr. Beck: It is in the nature of an order rather than a prescription.

Witness: It is written as a prescription.

Mr. Beck: Is it quite? The figure is put before the symbol, and doctors usually put it the other way. You have put the figure one before the symbol.

Witness (looking at the paper): So I have.

Mr. Beck: Anyone who was accustomed to deal with these things would hardly look upon that as a doctor's prescription.

Witness: I don't think that that affects it materially. I will be more careful next time. (Laughter.)

The rest of Dr. Teed's cross-examination was directed to show that calcined magnesia absorbs carbonic acid and moisture from the air—"extremely slowly," said the witness. Mr. Beck also got him to acknowledge that carbonate had not been added to the article sold. Dr. Francis Stevens, the medical officer of health, was also examined in support of the summons, and the point of his evidence was that calcined magnesia is prescribed when the effect of carbonic acid is not desired, so it should not be sold carbonated.

For the defence Mr. Beck submitted that there was no case for a conviction, as heavy oxide of magnesia was asked for and supplied, although the sample had by contact with the atmosphere gone through a slight chemical change which is inevitable from that contact. He submitted that the Act was intended to apply to cases of fraud perpetrated by the addition of a foreign ingredient, and not to such a case as the present.

The defendant was then called, and said he served the article from an ordinary stoppered bottle. He had been in business for fifteen years, and he had only been asked for the heavy oxide upon this one occasion. The article he supplied was to the best of his knowledge the old-fashioned heavy calcined magnesia. He had had it in stock for ten years and possibly more. Witness had been dispenser to one of the largest retail chemists in London for three years.

Mr. Beck: Have you ever dispensed a prescription prescribing oxide of magnesia?

Defendant: No, not to my knowledge—certainly not for fifteen years.

Mr. Beck: The person who purchased suggested that you supplied it out of two bottles.

Defendant: Certainly not.

Mr. William Johnston, pharmaceutical chemist, said that, in conjunction with Mr. Priest, he examined the sample microscopically, and came to the conclusion that carbonate was present; and he was quite satisfied that it was absorbed from the air, and was not mechanically added as an adulterant. He had twenty years' experience of English pharmacy, and during that time he had never once sold the heavy oxide. He was speaking the other day to a chemist who had been forty years in the business, and had dispensed a quarter of a million prescriptions, and he said he had never once dispensed the oxide.

Mr. Francis: Could the article supplied, in your opinion, ever have been heavy magnesia?

Witness: Certainly, your Worship. It originally was heavy magnesia, and 70 per cent. of it was still so and 30 per cent. was heavy carbonate of magnesia.

Mr Francis: Knowing that it is subject to a change in its substance, would you think it right for any chemist to keep it ten years in stock?

Witness: Certainly, sir, if there is no demand for it.

Mr. Francis: And then sell it?

Witness: Certainly, sir—for this reason: it would be equally good for medicinal purposes—in my opinion, better.

Mr. Francis: In the face of that evidence, I do not think that I ought to convict here.

The summons was then dismissed.

Mr. Marsden inquired whether his Worship would state a special case in the event of the Council asking for it.

Mr. Francis: Yes, if there is any point of law. I will give you every assistance I can.

MERCURIAL OINTMENT.

At the St. Augustine's County Magistrates' Court, Canterbury, on Saturday, March 16 (Mr. F. H. Wilbee presiding, and Mr. E. C. Fenoulhet, L.R.C.P. & S.E., Herne Bay, being amongst those on the bench), Frederick Couper, chemist, High Street, Whitstable, was summoned for selling mercurial ointment which was 66.6 parts per cent. deficient of mercury. Mr. T. F. Low, instructed by the Chemists' Defence Association, appeared for defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

P.C. Gow, in proving the purchase, explained that when he and Superintendent Jacobs were dividing the ointment into three parts defendant called witness's attention to the words on the label of the box "Not B.P. strength."

Superintendent Jacobs deposed that defendant stated that he had written the words on the label because he had only been in the business ten or twelve days, and put it on for his own protection, as he had not had time to test the ointment. The analyst's certificate showed the ointment to be 66.6 per cent. deficient of mercury.

Mr. Low submitted that he had no case to answer, as defendant had protected himself as required by the Act by placing the label on the box with the words "Not British Pharmacopœia strength."

The Chairman said the Bench thought there was a case to answer.

Mr. Low, continuing, submitted that it was not necessary for his client to call the customer's attention to the label provided it was legibly written and that mercurial ointment of the kind sold had a commercial standard in the trade.

The defendant was then called, and stated that he had recently purchased Mr. Arrowsmith's business. He had been twenty-five years in the trade, and he had never sold mercurial ointment of a stronger strength than in this instance except on a doctor's order or prescription. He corroborated previous witnesses' evidence as to labelling, and admitted that the constable might not have seen him affix the label, as there was a glass case in front of him.

Mr. Wm. S. Glyn-Jones, chemist and member of the Pharmaceutical Council of Great Britain, stated that he had had sixteen or seventeen years' practical experience as a chemist. If a person asked him for mercury ointment he should give him the diluted ointment which was invariably sold to the public. He would not sell without a doctor's prescription the Pharmacopœia ointment. Every chemist would serve the public with the kind of mercury ointment that defendant served the constable. The label used was the kind he would place on the ointment, but in this instance he would not consider it necessary to say "Not B.P. standard," because there was a commercial standard for mercury ointment, the recognised standard being a third of the B.P. strength. He emphatically said a chemist would be doing wrong in selling the Pharmacopœia standard of ointment indiscriminately to everyone who asked for it. The misuse of the stronger article would in time cause the teeth to drop out and bring on paralysis.

The Magistrates' Clerk called attention to the decision by Mr. Justice Bruce and Mr. Justice Phillimore, in which it had not been proved that there was any commercial standard different from the British Pharmacopœia.

Mr. Low contended that the facts in that case differed from the one now before the Bench.

John Hall Roberts, chemist, Whitstable, of fifty years' experience, deposed that he had always sold the diluted article of the Pharmacopœia of 1836. The commercial article always sold was 16-per-cent. strength. He would

not trust any of the public with the strong mercurial ointment without a doctor's orders. He should be afraid of their teeth dropping out and the risk of an action for damages.

Charles Bing, chemist, Canterbury, stated that the diluted ointment was usually sold by chemists to the public.

Robert Croft, chemist, Canterbury, gave similar evidence.

The Chairman said that as there was an important point connected with the matter the Bench would adjourn the case, and give their decision on the following Saturday.

County Court Cases.

A DISPENSING DISPUTE.

At Truro County Court on March 15, Mr. A. L. Salmon, a Truro surgeon, sued a dairyman named Lanyon for 11*l.*, for professional attendance and medicine. The only items disputed by the defendant were 10*s.* for medicine and 2*s.* for a visit on specified dates. In connection with these it was stated that defendant consulted Dr. Clay, of Plymouth, and the prescription he then received was made up by Mr. Salmon on three occasions. On the second occasion Mr. Salmon omitted one of the ingredients, and defendant returned the mixture with the statement that the medicine was neither of the same colour nor taste as that previously supplied. It was explained to defendant that a tincture which was omitted from the second bottle would account for the change, and the mixture was then made up as it originally appeared in the prescription. Plaintiff told Dr. Clay what he had done when the change was made. After hearing further evidence, the Judge said the defence to the first item was that plaintiff sent the wrong medicine, and was therefore not entitled to be paid for it. The evidence did not satisfy him that this view was correct, and he gave judgment for the amount claimed and costs. On behalf of the plaintiff the Judge was asked to order that the bottles should remain in the custody of the Court, in view of further proceedings by the defendant, especially in regard to the fact that his client's professional character had been most seriously attacked. Defendant's solicitor desired an opportunity of taking samples for analysis, and the medicine was left in the custody of the Court.

THE CARRIAGE OF S.V.R.

At the Manchester County Court on March 15, Andrew Macnair, drysalter, sued the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company for damages for declining to carry a quantity of spirit of wine as ordinary goods, and for detention. The point at issue was whether spirit of wine is a "dangerous substance." The plaintiff contended that spirit of wine is no more to be created than rum, whisky, gin, or brandy, which are carried freely by the railway companies. It was also pointed out that the plaintiff had been receiving from Messrs. Walker, distillers, of Liverpool, as much as 2,000 gallons of spirit of wine per week, and no objection had been raised until now. The company, however, said they would not have carried it under the conditions if they had known what it was. In future they intended to protect themselves and the public. Chemists were called on both sides to testify as to the character of spirit of wine. Dr. A. K. Miller considered that under no circumstances would it explode, and that only when a light was applied would the vapour from it burn at a temperature of 70°, or higher, and even then it would not burn the liquor itself. Mr. Archbutt, chemist to the defendant company, considered spirit of wine a highly dangerous and inflammable substance to carry as goods. At 60° above proof it gave off an inflammable vapour at 58° F. The definition of spirit of wine as found in the British Pharmacopœia was read, and his Honour (Judge Parry) deferred judgment.

WRITING A PAMPHLET.

MR. ALFRED BRAITHWAITE EMANUEL, journalist, sued the International Plasmon (Limited), of 55 Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W., at Marylebone County Court on March 15, to recover 5*l.* for writing a pamphlet which he said was produced to order. According to plaintiff's version of the case, the Plasmon Syndicate asked him to write a pamphlet on their products which would be suitable for distribution to grocers and chemists. This he did, sending it off on the same night as the order was given. When he

called next day for the cash the manuscript and his bill were returned to him. Mr. J. Berghelm, managing director of the defendant company, denied that Emanuel had been requested to write the pamphlet for them. The plaintiff had called at their office, Mr. Berghelm said, stating that he was connected with a large number of provincial papers, and offering to write and publish an article for the company if they would pay him. Mr. Berghelm replied that such an article would be of no use to them, but Mr. Emanuel then said that he would write the article, and in the event of them not liking it it might be returned. The manuscript came by post shortly afterwards, but was not even read. It was returned at once. After hearing all the evidence, Judge Stonor said the case was rather peculiar, and one for merely nominal damages. He therefore found for the plaintiff for 1s.

A SCIENTIFIC WITNESS AND HIS FEES.

At the Liverpool County Court on Wednesday, March 20, before Judge Collier, an action was heard in which Messrs. Edward Davies & Son, analytical and consulting chemists, Liverpool, sought to recover from Mr. H. F. Neale, a Liverpool solicitor, 8*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, balance for professional fees and analytical work done. The defendant paid 5*l.* 5*s.* into court in satisfaction of the claim, and as to the balance he denied having engaged the plaintiffs to do part of the work charged for. Mr. Edward Davies, the senior partner of the plaintiff firm, stated that his fee for attendance in court for many years past had been 3*l.* 3*s.*, the amount he had charged the defendant in this case. In cross-examination, witness admitted, in regard to items in dispute for work done in 1898 and 1899, that he could not say from whom he received instructions, but his certificate of analysis was in each case sent to Mr. Neale. In one case he had agreed to accept 2*l.* 2*s.* for attendance at the Quarter Sessions. For the defence, counsel submitted that the orders for the disputed portion of the amount had probably been given by the defendant's lay client direct to the plaintiff firm, and that the defendant should not be held liable for work which he had personally never ordered, and could not now trace in any way. After a long hearing, his Honour gave judgment for the defendant, and said he considered the amount paid into court was sufficient to cover all the defendant was liable for.

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

- Hallas, S., and Hallas, S. E.,** soap manufacturers, Halifax under the style of the Zeleva Soap Company.
- Higginbottom, H., and Yates, J.,** mineral-water manufacturers, &c., New Mills, Derbyshire, and Whaly Bridge, Cheshire, under the style of H. Higginbottom & Co.
- Nelstrop, J. A., and Kayser, E. A.,** wholesale manufacturing chemists, Salford, under the style of J. A. Nelstrop & Co.

The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Bernard, Charles John, Skegness, medical practitioner.

ADJUDICATIONS.

- Bernard, Charles John,** Skegness, medical practitioner.
- Cort, John Giles Denison,** Blackburn, physician and surgeon.
- Macguire, James Henry,** Chesterton, surgeon.
- Mackenzie, Kenneth Morell,** Thaxted and Stansted, Essex, doctor of medicine.
- Thomas, William,** Willenhall, chemist.
- Wademan, William,** Morecambe, mineral-water manufacturer.

A Trust-deed.

Mr. William Swan, chemist and druggist, 94 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, has granted a trust-deed on behalf of his creditors in favour of Mr. W. C. Steven, chartered accountant, 21 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, with whom all parties are requested to lodge claims before March 30.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Cooper, William Ecklee (Jun.), Upton-on-Severn, chemist, Trustee, Alfred Baker, Tewkesbury, bank manager. Dated, March 8; filed, March 12. Liabilities unsecured, 428*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; estimated net assets, 212*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barclay & Sons, London	28	0	0
Fox, F. F. & Co., Bristol	11	0	0
Hearon, Squire & Francis, London ...	20	0	0
Hunter, R. L., Hanley Castle	35	0	0
Osborne, G. M., Stoke	20	0	0
Sutton, W. & Co., London	90	0	0
Williams, J., Tewkesbury	13	0	0
Bankers' claims	51	0	0

Greener, Thomas Young, Snettisham, drug dealer. Trustee, Thomas W. Smith, Bank Plain, Norwich, accountant. Dated, March 11; filed, March 13. Liabilities unsecured, 422*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*; estimated net assets, 115*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Allen & Weale, Lynn	17	0	0
Blakeley, Alice M., Snettisham	10	0	0
Caley & Son, Norwich	13	0	0
Hovenden, R. (Limited), London	10	0	0
Metcalf, Lynn	23	0	0
Patchett, Mrs., Holbeach	190	0	0
Smith & Sons, Norwich	72	0	0
Bankers' claims	51	0	0

New Companies & Company News.

G. H. NICKOLDS (LIMITED).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over and carry on at 35 George Street, Croydon, and elsewhere, the business of a dentist, dental practitioner and dental surgeon in all its branches. Registered office, 35 George Street, Croydon.

SHERRIN & PARTNERS (LIMITED).—Capital 25,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of engineers, manufacturers, manufacturing chemists, druggists, and many other trades. J. V. Sherrin, 28 Victoria Street, S.W., engineer, is the first managing director.

DEAYTON'S STORES (LIMITED).—Capital 30,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of provision merchants, chemists, druggists, &c., carried on at Teddington and Twickenham as "C. and A. Deayton," or "Deayton's Stores." Registered office, 1 Broad Street, Teddington.

HILLCREST OIL COMPANY, BRADFORD (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of oil importers and refiners recently carried on at Hillcrest Oilworks, Laisterdyke, Bradford, by W. Laing and J. McLachlan. Registered office, Hillcrest Oilworks, Parsonage Road, Laisterdyke, Bradford.

LONDON SUPER-AERATION (LIMITED).—Capital 300,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from Super-Aeration (Limited) the benefit, within an area in and around the city of London, extending to and including the whole of the London Postal District, of a licence relating to certain existing inventions relating to the drawing-off or dispensing of aerated liquids, and with a view thereto to adopt an agreement between the Imperial and Foreign Investment Corporation (Limited), and the Industrial and Banking Issue Corporation (Limited), of the one part, and H. W. Clark (for the company) of the other part. Minimum subscription 50,000*l.* The first directors are the Earl of Kintore, P.C., G.C.M.G. (Chairman), E. Wolseley, G. L. Lyons, J. S. Watton, and T. B. Bickerton. Qualification, 250 shares. Remuneration, 200*l.* per annum, and 100*l.* extra for the chairman, or more, according to profits. Registered office, 31 Walbrook, E.C.

BRANDRAM BROTHERS & CO. (LIMITED).—The report for 1900 states that the net profit available, including 757*l.* carried over, is 2,183*l.*, out of which a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares will be paid.

ANGLO-SICILIAN SULPHUR COMPANY (LIMITED).—The board has declared an interim dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (calculated on the amount per share paid up) for the half-year ended January 31.

KODAK (LIMITED)—The report for the year 1900 states that the total profits of the separate companies are 337,039%, which, added to 151,917% brought forward, amount to 518,956%. The balance-sheet of Kodak (Limited) exhibits a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of 252,409%. The directors recommend the payment of a further bonus of 2½ per cent on the ordinary shares, making for the year a total distribution of 15 per cent, the surplus for reserve and carry forward in Europe being 66,409%, while the surplus for reserve and carry forward in America is 263,853%.

VALENTINE'S EXTRACT COMPANY (LIMITED).—In the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on March 14, before Mr. Justice Wright, a petition was presented by Valentine's Meat-juice Company (Limited) for the compulsory winding-up of Valentine's Extract Company (Limited). Mr. Sebastian, who appeared in support of the petition, said the circumstances were these:—The petitioning creditors were an American company, who had obtained a judgment against the present company with costs. The costs had been taxed and allowed, and the amount due was something approaching 3,000%. It had as yet been found impossible to comply with the identical words of the writ, which said that a statutory affidavit was to be made, as the petitioning company was in Virginia. The solicitor for the petitioning company was acting on a power of attorney. Counsel for the company said the necessary affidavit could be here in three weeks' time. They were being pursued with great relentlessness on the part of the petitioners. He therefore took the objection as to the affidavit not being filed, and did not at all feel disposed to give way. His Lordship said he did not think it wise to make an order which might be upset in the Court of Appeal on a technicality. Mr. Sebastian then asked for time in which to file the necessary affidavit, and, counsel for the company not objecting, his Lordship ordered the matter to stand over generally for the purpose named.

UNITED ALKALI COMPANY (LIMITED).—The report of the directors for 1900 states that the net profits, including 36,868% brought forward, amount to 248,869%. An interim dividend on the preference shares at 7s. per share for six months to June 30, 1900, was paid on August 31, 1900, and the directors recommend a final dividend on the preference share of 7s. per share for six months to December 31, 1900, carrying forward 60,167%. The profits for 1900 exceed those of 1899 by 11,671%. Deliveries of manufactured goods have been fairly satisfactory, with the exception of shipments of alkalis to Russia and the United States of America, these countries now being able to produce practically all the alkali required for domestic consumption under the protection of high import duties. The new manufactures—cyanide, acetic acid and acetone—have shown good results. Two wells have been sunk upon the company's Cheshire property, and the presence of an excellent supply of fully saturated brine proved, but further operations have been suspended, a contract with the Salt Union having been made. The works of the North American Chemical Company have been in regular operation, and, though earning profits, have not yet attained to such results as the directors consider they should, and will, presently yield. No profit from this source is included in the company's accounts for 1900, the balance of profit, after depreciation, having been carried forward in the books of the American Company. In connection with the North American Chemical Company a new colliery has been opened, and is proving a valuable addition to the company's property. No provision has been made for claims in respect of the explosion at St. Helens, the case being under appeal.

Personalities.

MR. O. ISGOED JONES, chemist and druggist, Llanrwst, has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Denbighshire County Council.

MR. C. BING (Messrs. Bing & Son, pharmaceutical chemists, St. George's Street, Canterbury) has been elected a member of the Chamber of Trade for that city.

On March 15, the Students of the Imperial College of Chemistry presented to Mr. Frederick Davis, their principal, a silver match-box upon the occasion of his birthday.

MR. R. W. WALDEN, chemist and druggist, 65 Elizabeth Street, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., has been elected a member of St. George's Board of Guardians, Hanover Square, W.

DR. CHARLES A. KOHN, who has been for many years the senior demonstrator of chemistry at University College, Liverpool, has been elected principal of the new Sir John Cass Technical Institute, Aldgate, E.

MR. GEO. EADE (Alderman of Finsbury), wholesale chemist and druggist, of Goswell Road, has been re-elected to the Holborn Board of Guardians, of which body he has been Chairman of the Finance and Vaccination Committees for several years.

MR. ALBERT TOVEY, of Messrs. Tovey & Underwood, chemists, Quay, Bideford, has been presented with an illuminated scroll by the members of the Portobello Church, Bideford, on the occasion of his leaving for Australia for the benefit of his health.

MR. WATSON WILL, as President of the London Forfarshire Association, and Mrs. Will gave a children's party in the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, on Saturday evening last. Between 200 and 300 of the young guests were present, and it was a successful and pretty event.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH MACFARLAND, the well-known bacteriologist and pathologist of Philadelphia, has joined the staff of the biological laboratories of Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit. Dr. MacFarland will devote himself to purely scientific research on bacteriology.

ALDERMAN H. DUNN, pharmaceutical chemist, Shipley, has been again elected to the Aldermanic bench of the West Riding County Council. Mr. Dunn has been on the Council for nine years, and has served six years as an Alderman. He has likewise been a member of the District Council for nearly twenty years.

MR. J. P. GIBSON, chemist and druggist, of Hexham, gave an interesting lantern-lecture before the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Northern Counties Photographic Association on March 19. There was a large and interested audience of photographers, and Mr. Gibson illustrated his lecture by means of 150 beautiful lantern-slides of scientific objects.

MR. A. BOWDLER HILL, Master of the Salters' Company, presided at a dinner of the Company at Salters' Hall on Wednesday evening. In the course of a speech the Archdeacon of London, proposing the Master's health, stated that since the reign of Richard II. the Salters' Company had given to the City nineteen Lord Mayors, and also that the Master of the Company enjoyed the ancient right of acting as an assistant to the Chief Butler at the coronations of English sovereigns.

Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

MR. J. COULTER, store chemist, is about to open premises at 155 Pentonville Road, N.

MR. J. EVANS has bought the business formerly belonging to Mr. H. L. A. James, at 116 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge.

MRS. RYDER has decided to continue the chemist's business at Teignmouth, so long carried on by her late husband.

MESSRS. SPARKS, TREHARNE & SON, wholesale and export druggists and medicine chest fitters, have removed to 12 Mitre Square, E.C.

MR. A. T. RILEY, chemist and druggist, of West Cowes, has bought the business of Mr. J. Lea, at 4 Harbour Street, Folkestone.

MR. M. W. ADLER, chemist and druggist, Brighton, has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. A. B. G. E. Jones, at 45 Station Road, Portslade.

MR. C. C. REECE, chemist, has acquired the premises at 96 High Street, Marylebone, W., which he will occupy as soon as the necessary alterations are completed.

THE executors of Mr. J. R. Summers, pharmaceutical chemist, announce their intention of shortly vacating the premises at 15 Norton Folgate, Shoreditch, E.

THE new branch of Parke's Drug-stores (Limited) at the Exchange, Muswell Hill, N., is now open. It is a handsome double-front shop, with mahogany fittings and incandescent-gas light.

MESSRS. FROST & HARRISON, pharmaceutical chemists, having disposed of the lease of their premises at 14 Burnt Ash Road, Lee, are transferring the business to their head establishment at 3 Eltham Road, which will in future be the firm's only Lee Green address.

AFTER seventeen years' partnership and active management of Messrs. Bayley & Co., perfumers, &c., St. Martin's Lane, W, Mr. N. H. Walker has severed his connection with the firm, with which his father was before him associated in the same capacity for nearly forty years. He is succeeded in the management by Mr. Dattfield.

Festivities.

STORE-CHEMISTS DINE.

The employés of Martyn's Drug-stores (Limited) dined together on March 14 at the Swan and Peacock Hotel, Wolverhampton, Mr. G. A. Fry in the chair. There was a good attendance of managers and assistants from West Bromwich and surrounding districts. Mr. J. Wren, manager of the Wolverhampton branch, proposed the toast of the firm, referred to the kindness of the principals, the progress of the business, and the bright outlook for the future. Mr. S. M. Hibberd, the Managing Director, responded. Other toasts followed, and the proceedings were enlivened by a programme of music.

NOTTINGHAM CHEMISTS DINE.

The thirty-second annual dinner of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association was held at the Albert Hotel, Nottingham, on March 14. Mr. Richard FitzHugh, J.P. (President of the Association) was in the chair, and was supported by the Mayor and Sheriff of the city, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme), the Chief Constable (Mr. P. S. Clay), and others. The loyal toasts having been honoured, Mr. E. Goscoyne proposing "The Pharmaceutical Society," said although he had frequently criticised the Society, he was open to admit the difficulties that the Society had to contend with in endeavouring to improve the condition of pharmacy. He congratulated the Council upon the practical view of matters they had taken in connection with the Bill which they proposed to bring before the House of Commons. It had been said, and with a considerable element of truth, that it was not a Bill to induce a very great amount of enthusiasm, but it had at least the advantage that it contained as much as they had any reasonable prospect of gaining. That was more than could be said of some of the hare-brained schemes of its critics.

Mr. Newsholme, replying, said he knew that for a considerable number of years the Society had not always been popular. When they remembered that the membership of the Pharmaceutical Society only represented a third of the whole of the craft in the country, it did not look as if the Society had the respect of the craft generally. This was very largely due, however, to the indifference of those who followed the calling of a pharmacist. Referring to the Pharmacy Bill, Mr. Newsholme said the Council set out with the idea of having a small Bill dealing with the sale of poisons and the protection of titles, but very great pressure was brought to bear upon the Council that the compounding of medicines should be included in the Bill. Whilst the Bill they had drafted was not going to bring the millennium or to vastly improve the position of pharmacists, it was a Bill which, at any rate, would protect the public very largely, and in years to come would be of very great benefit to the craft generally. What they had to do was to deal with things as they were. They could not upset all the—as they called it—illegal trading, but what they could do

was to see that the position of every pharmacist was a proper one, and that he was carrying on the practice that his title gave him. He was not quite sure whether they deserved more, because unfortunately there was a good deal of carelessness in dispensing by chemists. If they all did their duty in a perfectly straightforward way, and saw that their dispensing was done accurately, he thought there was some probability in years to come that all dispensing would be done by practical pharmacists.

Mr. Sergeant proposed "The Mayor, Sheriff, and Corporation," a toast which was acknowledged by the Mayor, the Sheriff, and Councillor Cook.

Mr. Newsholme submitted "The Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association," and the Chairman, in responding, said it was twenty-five years ago this month since he was elected as President of the Association. The majority of those years had been prosperous ones for the Society, and he only hoped that such would continue to be the case.

Mr. Eberlin, who also replied, claimed that the Association educationally had accomplished very great things. As a social medium it had also justified its existence, as well as in the protection of their trade. They had always made education the first plank in their platform.

Other toasts included "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. Gill, and responded to by Mr. P. S. Clay; and "The Chairman," proposed by the Mayor. The speeches were interspersed with songs by Messrs. A. C. Vallance, G. Whysall, Jos. Turner, and P. L. Matthews.

Trade-Marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost 1s., obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 27, 1901.)

- "BROMAURUM" and "HYDRAURUM"; for medicine. By Arthur & Co., 69 Berners Street, London, W. 235,530, 235,531.
- "HENBISCO"; for medical preparations. By Henry Bishop & Co., 64 Lavender Road, New Wandsworth, S.W. 235,545.
- "SULPHUME" (no claim for "Sulph"); for chemical substances. By H. E. Henwood, 154 Lake Street, Chicago, U.S.A. 235,722.
- "KÉLÈNE"; for device for applying anaesthetics. By Société Chimique des Usines du Rhone, 8 Quai de Retz, Lyons. 235,514.
- "AMOLIA" (no claim for "Amol"); for perfumery and toilet articles. By the Edwards' Harlene Company, 95 High Holborn, London. 234,835.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," March 6, 1901.)

- "LIGVITIEM"; for a chemical preparation. By Dennis & Roberts, 14, Clumber Street, Nottingham. 235,245.
- "PATESIA"; for magnesia in all forms and magnesia-waters. By the Washington Chemical Company (Limited), Durham. 235,341, 235,342, 235,343, 235,344.
- "TONIC-PHOSPHORETTES" (no claim for "Phosphor"); for chemical substances. By Alfred J. Parker, 21 East Hill, Dartford. 232,873.
- "RIPANS' TABULES"; for medicinal tablets. By the Ripans Chemical Company, 10 Spruce Street, New York. 234,421.
- "NITA"; for medicated preparations. By Anne G. Stevens, 19 Sussex Place, South Kensington, S.W. 235,018.
- "NAZALENE" (no claim for "Nasal"); for medicinal remedies. By the City Drug Company, 76 Finsbury Pavement, E.C. 235,198.
- "NUTROLACTIS"; for a pharmaceutical preparation. By the Nutrolactis Company, 18 East 17th Street, New York. 235,417.
- "AGURIN"; for a pharmaceutical product in Class 3. By F. Bayer & Co., Königstrasse 27, Elberfeld, Germany. 235,517.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

The Pharmaceutical Council.

SIR,—According to some of your correspondents every member of almost every Council that has existed since the granting of the charter has been unfit as a representative of the chemists and druggists of Great Britain. If the Pharmaceutical Council has been so dormant and so regardless of our trade interest as some of your correspondents lead us believe, who is responsible? If we as chemists and druggists place these men in power, are we not responsible? Evidently those who have voted for these men have full confidence in them, and those who take the trouble to fill up the voting-paper are, as a rule, the most wide-awake, and can appreciate the men they vote for. Those who do not take that trouble are the apathetic ones, and these are the men that as a rule cry out most bitterly against those that are placed to look after our interests. I would therefore urge every chemist at the coming election to think well before he places his vote for any man, so that he may be able to find out for himself the man who will be fully alive to our grievances.

Yours, &c.,

M. S. T. (106/55.)

SIR,—In the note appended to my letter in your last issue you say:—

The Council is authorised by the charter to make by-laws for regulating the affairs of the Society, and Section 5 of the by-laws so made and authorised deals with the election of the Council and auditors. Does Mr. Paterson mean to say that an election is not an affair?

My answer is that this power in the charter is conditioned by the proviso, which says:—

And such by-laws from time to time to vary, alter, or revoke, and make such new and other by-laws as they shall think most useful and expedient so that the same shall not be repugnant to these presents.

Further, Clause 1 of the 1852 Act says that the charter,

save and except such part or parts thereof as are hereby altered, varied, or repealed, shall be, and the same is, hereby confirmed and declared to be in full force and virtue,

and so incorporates the charter into the Act of Parliament. The provisions of an Act of Parliament can only be altered by Parliament. In the charter there are various provisions relating to the Council left untouched by the Act of 1852. Take two of these—(1) The order of retirement of members of the Council; (2) the mode of nominating members for the Council. They are precisely on the same plane in that (a) they are the subjects of special enactments in the charter; (b) they were both regulated by by-laws made by the Society; (c) they are both what you would style "affairs" of the Society, and relate to the same thing. When it was decided to change the order of retirement from the Council a clause was inserted in the 1898 Act to effect the change, and new by-laws were passed to bring them into conformity with the statutory powers thus obtained. In like manner an Act of Parliament must be got if the method of nominating members is to be altered. This has not been sought. The by-laws relating to this point must therefore not be repugnant to the enactments in the charter relating thereto, otherwise they are *ultra vires*. If this and our other contentions are right—and I have never seen or heard any argument to invalidate them—then issues far-reaching in their effect are raised, and, in my view, require to be authoritatively settled.

Aberdeen, March 19.

JAMES PATERSON.

Labelling of Poisons.

SIR,—I am now able to state what was the nature of the offence which constituted the breach of Section 17 referred to in the letter of the Procurator-Fiscal (page 432). I may explain that when I called on the 12th, Mr. Agnew was courteous but reticent. He would not allow me to examine the three bottles he held, but removed them to a safe distance. I asked, "What was the offence first mentioned?" He replied, "The name of the seller does not appear on the label." He would not say whether it was a firm's name which appeared on the label. I have now discovered that the name used on the label was the name of the district along with the word "Pharmacy," just as if it had been "Bloomsbury Pharmacy," for instance; otherwise the label was in order. The proprietor, a chemist and druggist, explained to me that he had recently taken possession of the pharmacy in question, and that he has now ordered a set of labels bearing his own name. It may be added that in his case the laudanum was said to be wanted for fomentations, and was put into a poison-bottle. It seems probable that having received two plain bottles and one poison-bottle in connection with this case, the Procurator-Fiscal was confirmed in the idea that the law requires laudanum to be sold in poison-bottles.

I am, &c.,

Dundee, March 16.

WILLIAM CUMMINGS.

[It is a pity the proprietor of the "Bloomsbury Pharmacy" did not make a fight of it. The trade as a whole need very badly another decision on the name question.—EDITOR.]

Fundamentals.

SIR,—The difference between Mr. Gifford's position and mine is perfectly evident. Mr. Gifford has stated distinctly that he stands by Clause 1 of the Pharmacy Act, in which qualification of the person keeping open shop is insisted on. This, he says, constitutes the only principle in the Act about which he cares anything, and he thinks it so reasonable that our claim in regard to it is irresistible. In order that there may be no mistake about his position, he adds that he will have nothing whatever to do with the limited-liability principle in pharmacy. This sums up Mr. Gifford's position, and it is due to him to say that it is perfectly definite. I, with great reluctance, have been forced to accept the limited principle. The persons who keep open shop in a limited company are the shareholders, and Parliament will not stop public money being vested in pharmacy. To demand this may appear reasonable to Mr. Gifford and me, but it does not appear reasonable to Parliament, and there is an end of the matter. Our next best course is, in my opinion to insist on the practice of pharmacy being placed under the *bona-fide* control of qualified men, wherever and under whatever circumstances it is carried on. If it is in a limited company we must have all directors, general managers, and sub-managers qualified. By adopting this principle we will slowly eliminate the limited-liability principle from pharmacy, as the outsider is bound in so limited a profession to walk out when the qualified man walks in. Then we must proceed to bring pharmacy as practised in public dispensaries, hospitals, surgeries, and in the army and navy, under the control of qualified men, as suggested by Mr. Glyn-Jones. This seems to me a hopeful programme, and the Bill before the country forms the first step in carrying it out. Mr. Gifford has in these two positions the "clear issue" for which he asks. Is he going to come out and be converted, in order that his undoubted ability and energy may be at the service of pharmacy, or is he going to continue to act as a brake on progress? It is more difficult to understand "Xrayser" when he says he is inclined to support Mr. Gifford. He is of opinion that the principle that "all persons who keep open shop be qualified" ought to be maintained. Do I understand "Xrayser" to say that he thinks we can stop limited companies by legislation right away? I understood he was supporting the Bill before the country, and he must know that this Bill is a veritable anathema and maranatha to Mr. Gifford. He says we must either stand by the principle of having all persons who keep open shop qualified, or else get the Act repealed. Verily "Xrayser" in this matter out-Giffords Gifford. Parliament will neither pass a Bill forcing all people who keep open shop (shareholders) to be qualified, nor will it repeal the Pharmacy Act. Later on he says, speaking of the Judges' decisions, that the

most that can be said is that in two or three instances the Act has not been construed according to our views. Can it be considered good administration when it is held in the London and Provincial Supply case, and in the Leith Depot case, that not the proprietors but the actual sellers are responsible; whilst in the Robertson v. Cockburn case the Lord Justice Clerk states distinctly that the masters are responsible for their servants, and gives 700*l.* damages, not against the actual sellers, but against the proprietors of a limited company? We all agree with the Lord Justice Clerk, but can anyone say that the former decisions merely erred in differing from our view. These decisions smashed utterly the principle to which Mr. Gifford clings with the tenacity and hopelessness of a drowning man clinging to a straw, and all thinking men know this. Nobody expected, however, that "Xrayser" would emerge from the troubled waters of pharmacy, gasping, half-drowned, to contest the ownership of this straw with Mr. Gifford. I can only imagine that "Xrayser," for whose opinions I have always had great respect, wrote this paragraph in haste and without due thought.

JAMES REID.

Dumfries, March 11.

The Irish University Commission.

SIR,—I trust that the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland will not fail to send in an immediate request to the Lord-Lieutenant to be represented on the Commission which he is about to appoint in order to investigate the condition of University education in Ireland. The question of a degree for pharmacists, and that of provision of instruction at night in the higher branches of physics, chemistry, and botany—that is, in more advanced courses than the Society's School is adapted to afford, together with the important question of teaching classics and mathematics at night, in order to provide a better-educated grade of apprentices—in all these points the Pharmaceutical Society is keenly interested, and each of them might fairly be dealt with by the Commission.

Yours truly,

Dublin, March 9.

M.P.S.I. (100/48.)

The New Draft Bill.

"But the House of Commons, though fastidious, is not foolish—neither is it impatient to do right; as a rule it is not impatient to do anything, but it likes to know what it is doing."

SIR,—It has been well said that the one thing wanted is to have a direct issue raised between the qualified chemist and the unqualified company. No examined chemist will quarrel with that statement.

"It is quite obvious that a company cannot pass examinations and obtain a qualification. Nor can it be endowed with a proper personal responsibility, for the emoluments would go . . . to an intangible corporate body. . . . It may be added that experience has shown that it is practically impossible to secure a conviction either against a company or its employés for infringement of the Medical Acts."—*B.M.J.*, April 8, 1899, page 861.

It becomes more and more certain that any recognition of companies as capable of exercising professional functions carries with it our undoing. The work before the Council is to convince the Lord Chancellor that ours is not a trade-question.

As Divisional Secretary I have received copies of the draft Bill. We are expected to attract the interest of the public and of members of Parliament to it—an impossible task—because the reasons against Clause 2 of the Companies Bill, issued by the Council in July, apply with equal force against the draft Bill. There can be no doubt that it is futile to approach M.P.'s unless (1) we know what we want, (2) that what we ask is reasonable, and (3) that it is desirable in the public interest. We wish it to be impossible for persons who cannot qualify to practise as chemists and druggists. We say that whilst they are permitted to do so statute law is nullified and that it should be put into force. We carefully point out that practising is restricted to using the title and dispensing, compounding, and distributing scheduled poisons, and that to do this does not require capital any more than the practice of medicine. This is a line of argument we have effectively pursued on former occasions, and which we maintain is capable of convincing members of Parliament.

"Acts which lay down that a personal qualification shall be necessary for the pursuit of certain callings prescribe that persons shall, prior to following them, go through a given course of education and examination."—*B.M.J.*, July 23, 1898, page 249.

This all seems very clear, and laymen allow it. They are amazed that there can be any doubt amongst qualified chemists as to the wisdom, the essential necessity, of insisting upon such a fact. Such doubt, however, does arise, in this way. The Lord Chancellor recognised

that, though there were points of close similarity, there were differences and difficulties in the case of pharmacy arising from trade-operations which did not exist in the case of medicine and dentistry.

This is the only argument which can be brought against us. It will not hold, because we are not trying, and do not wish, to prevent companies, any more than individuals, from carrying on the general drug-trade. We have stripped the question to a purely professional basis. We ask for a personal qualification. Moreover, the draft Bill is inconsistent with the Lord Chancellor's repeated declaration that "company practice and personal qualification do not cohere." Therefore it is essential to maintain that there cannot be any real difference in the case of pharmacy from that of medicine and dentistry.

Let us free ourselves from the idea that compromise at Bloomsbury Square settles anything, or that publication of an inconsistent draft Bill is necessarily followed by legislative enactment. "Certainly a company ought not to be able to do that which is illegal in an individual" our members said, and consequently legal recognition of companies means recognition of individuals. Would it not be sounder policy if the Council first agreed upon the principle which will form the basis of future action? We could understand—though it is difficult—that the principle acknowledged and that we ought to have, being thought too wide to be practical, might be narrowed and whittled until agreement was effected, but we cannot understand throwing overboard principle as a preliminary to action. It is allowed—*e.g.*, that there is absolute agreement as to titles, and there is no doubt as to the possibility of securing them. Now this would settle one anomaly, give away no principle, and perhaps we could soon work into agreement to go a step further. But giving away principle is simply to prevent any possibility of a profession of pharmacy.

It has been insinuated that in objecting to surrender principle we are not practical. What is the fact? We know what we want, what everyone who has been through the examination-rooms says he ought to have, and we ask for it. Our claim is reasonable—a bare demand for justice. We can convince the public. We can convince members of Parliament. All professions support our pretensions, as being the least we can make. The medical profession will strenuously support us, for the simple reason that our winning would make their position impregnable. And we are not practical! What claim to a reputation for practical principles do our critics possess? Can we find evidence in the thirty years' experience in the administration of the Pharmacy Acts? Does their practical wisdom exhibit itself in the way the interests of chemists have been safeguarded? We are no visionaries; we see clearly what we are striving for, and we have given strong evidence that our policy would be acceptable to the public and to Parliament. In a word, we know where we would go, and would take the line of least resistance. It is often asserted that flanking operations rather than frontal attacks are our best policy. We see no analogy in this reference whatever. When we go to our member it is absolutely essential to give the simple truth. Either we have a grievance and a claim upon him as a legislator, or we have not. With truth and righteousness on our side, subterfuge is a blunder. Besides, every incident and circumstance of the last three years condemn secrecy and irregular methods. Openness and publicity sent through the little Pharmacy Bill of 1898 with extraordinary despatch. Publicity, and especially the Council's published reasons against it, killed the infamous Clause 2. A clear course, therefore, is marked out. Go for that which we want—justice.

Yours faithfully,

Blackburn, March 19.

R. LORD GIFFORD.

Legal Queries.

Before sending in a query for reply in this section see if the subject is not dealt with in "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1900, pages 212-226, and pages 259-262.

100/7. *Pharmacien*.—It is certainly not illegal for medical officers to guardians in England to supply medicines to paupers, but regulations exist in some districts for the supply of medicines under contract by chemists and druggists. The regulations in Scotland are, we understand, similar, except that the Local Government Board in Scotland encourage the dispensing of medicines by chemists and druggists, as medical practitioners there do not, as a rule, supply medicines.

87/32. *Medicus*.—There is no law to compel a medical practitioner to attend any patient. Common humanity and professional spirit are the moving factors apart from hope of reward.

99/72. *Inquirer*.—A *locum tenens* engaged by the week is entitled to the full week's wages if discharged in the course of a week.

97/57. *H. M.*—You will find all particulars in regard to letters patent in our DIARY, page 530. We would not advise you to patent a neuralgic mixture should it contain a scheduled poison, as the Pharmaceutical Society will take steps to have the patent annulled.

96/11. *Paragoric Elaiir*.—The phrase in the Pharmacy Act, Ireland, 1875, Section 13, "Nothing in this Act shall extend to or interfere with the business of wholesale dealers in supplying poisons in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing" is the same as in Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and does not *per se* prevent the sale by wholesale to other than qualified retail dealers; but there is a phrase in Section 17 of the 1868 Act which, if read with Section 16, strictly implies that the sale by wholesalers to retail dealers only is exempted. In the Act "retail dealers" are defined.

102/47. *J. H. J.*—There is no Act of Parliament regulating the practice of analytical chemistry. Any licentiate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland may call himself an analyst and practise in London or elsewhere; but only persons holding the Fellowship of the Institute of Chemistry are eligible for analytical appointments approved by the Local Government Boards of the three kingdoms.

106/33. *Benny Mixtus*.—Section 17 of the Pharmacy Act stipulates that the name on the poison-label shall be that of the person on whose behalf the sale is made. The name of the assistant is not required. Such a title as "Blanktown Pharmacy" is not the name of the seller; but this takes us into the whole question at present in dispute. Cannot you get your Procurator Fiscal to take up a case?

107/4. *Plodder*.—See our DIARY, page 227, for all about trade-mark registration. The cost is 25s.

82/23. *Syphon*.—If the syphons were not your predecessor's property he could not sell them to you.

82/38. *Query*.—We notice that Fellows's syrup is advertised as containing strychnine, so it comes under Part 1 of the poison schedule.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

85/4. *Cambridge*.—*Ether-soap*.—Place 3 oz. of oleic acid in a mortar, and whilst stirring add solution of caustic potash (3 in 2 of water) until a mass resembling soft soap in consistence is obtained. Continue the addition of the caustic potash until the soap is neutral as indicated by phenolphthalein, then add 1 oz. alcohol, transfer to a bottle, add 3 oz. of ether, shake, and let stand till a clear solution results

27/2. *Shampoo*.—If you use proof spirit for the Dry Shampoo given in the *C. & D.*, February 9, page 261, it will yield a cheaper but much inferior article. The object of using rectified spirit is so that the shampooed hair will dry quickly.

88/54. *Xylem*.—The sponges soiled with cod-liver oil can be cleaned by washing in a weak warm solution of caustic soda, but it is often extremely difficult to remove the last trace of fishy odour. The sponges must be well rinsed after the soda-bath.

79/27. *Omega*.—(1) "White Mercury" for use on horses' legs we take to be corrosive sublimate. The P.L. 1745 gave "mercurius corrosivus sublimatus vel albus" as the official name for mercuric chloride, and it remained so till 1788. (2) Spirit-gum is a solution of resin (2) in rectified spirit (3½) and castor oil (½). It is sometimes made with methylated spirit, and then sells at 2d. per oz. (3) *Ranunculus aconitifolius* and *Lychnis dioica* flowers are both in popular language called Bachelor's Buttons, but customers sometimes apply the name to chamomile-flowers. (4) Tink-r's Salve is ung. hydrarg. mitius. (5) Nafta is probably intended for naftalan, a proprietary ointment sold by Messrs. A. & M. Zimmermann.

91/33. *Carol*.—(1) The salaries of Poor-law dispensers may increase by 10% every four years till 180% is reached. (2) Tar oils and naphthalin in carbolic acid lower the solubility.

91/10. *Bismuth*.—Repolishing would probably restore the blackness to marble which has become dirty grey through age.

85/14. *Informa*.—(1) Cud-balls ("V.C.P.") :—

Pulv. rad. althææ ...	...	...	3j.
Pulv. rad. glycyrrh. ...	...	...	3j.
Pulv. gum. acaciæ ...	...	...	3j.
Pulv. sal. communis ...	...	...	3j.

Make into a stiff mass with water and shape into balls.

(2) Caramel is sometimes sold flavoured slightly with oil of lemon.

89/48. *Ferrum*.—(1) Household Ammonia :—

Saponis flav. ...	...	...	9j.
Aq. lavand. ...	...	...	3j.
Liq. amm. fort. ...	...	...	3vj.
Aq. destill. ad ...	...	...	Oj.

Misce secundum artem.

(2) Menthol Sauff :—

Menthol. ...	...	...	3ss-3j.
Ammon. chloridi ...	...	...	3j.
Pulv. ac. borici ...	...	...	3j.
Pulv. camphoræ ...	...	...	gr. x.
Pulv. lycopodii ...	...	...	3j.

(3) There is no official strength for Ung. Bismuth. Oleatis, but 20 per cent. is the usual strength (4) Syr. hypophosph. co. is rendered cloudy by keeping the syrup slightly alkaline.

(5) White Hard Spirit-varnish :—

Mastic ...	...	...	3xviij.
Sandarac ...	...	...	lb. ivss.
Resin ...	...	...	lb. iss.
Spirit ...	...	...	Cong. ij.

Dissolve and strain.

(6) The green colour developed in a mixture containing ammonia and tincture of nux vomica is due to the igasuric acid in the nux vomica.

93/25. *Picrie*.—You may be able to collate for yourself a complete list of the vegetable substances recommended as cosmetics by reference to "Pharmaceutical Formulas."

86/43. *D. P. B.*—(1) The Irish Pharmaceutical Licence is not a legal qualification in Great Britain. (2) You will have no difficulty in getting a situation in England if you advertise in the coloured Supplement of this journal.

86/49. *Incognito*.—We were not aware that a "Society of Biological Chemistry" existed in London until we received your inquiry as to its professional standing.

86/32. *Victorian*.—Headache-cachets.—Phenacetin 8 gr. and a mixture of acetanilide 5 gr., caffeine 1 gr., make safe powders for filling headache-cachets.

91/42. *Don*.—The strength of a spirit is found from its sp. gr. by reference to alcohol tables, which are given in such works as Thorpe's "Dictionary of Chemistry."

87/50. *S. S. P.*—A very useful book in regard to the rearing of infants is Mrs. Langton Hewer's "Our Baby," published by John Wright & Co., Bristol, at 1s. 6d.

95/64. *Nemo*.—It is customary for some Boards of Guardians to have tenders for drugs based upon a wholesale druggist's price-list, that being a very convenient method.

91/54. *S. V. M.*—(1) Impurities in Wood-alcohol used for methylating purposes are limited to a minimum by official methods of analysis fully described in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of July 29, 1899, page 158. The wood-naphtha is required to contain 72 to 80 per cent. of methyl alcohol; the rest consists chiefly of acetone, methyl acetate, allyl alcohol, furfural, and empyreumatic bodies. (2) To purify it, wood spirit is treated with caustic soda and redistilled. Resinous and oily matters can be removed by distillation.

104/48. *Sapo*.—Books on Soapmaking.—Brannt (W. T.), "Practical Treatise on the Manufacture of Soap and Candles," 35s. (Low); Carpenter (W. L.), "Manufacture of Soap, Candles, and Lubricants," 10s. 6d. (Spon); Gathmann (H.), "Treatise on the Manufacture of Soap," 3l. (Clay).

164/10. *G. S.*—Solidified Alcohol.—The methods of making this are the subject of patents. "Spiratine" is made by melting 4.5 parts of stearine (or other animal and vegetable fatty matter), dissolving in it 0.5 part of sodium carbonate, adding to 95 parts of methylated spirit, and heating for an hour in a closed vessel. See also *C. & D.*, January 27, 1900, page 186.

72/52. *H. L.*—Try bichromated gelatin for hardening the pigskin tyres, although we are afraid it may injure the leather, which is in its best condition when soft.

80/58. *J. N.*—One-solution Hair-dye.—See *C. & D.*, February 23, 1901, page 337.

80/63. *Musie*.—The ivory keys of a piano are best cleaned with prepared chalk moistened with peroxide of hydrogen.

78/50. *N. R.*—We cannot examine the unknown "oil," as the matter is not of general interest.

74/39. *Caledonia*.—A course of gold-assaying, followed by some years' experience, will be required before you can get a post as assayer at a gold-mine, but subordinate positions are sometimes obtainable by good manipulators who have little assaying experience.

44/22. *A. T.*—Your letter gives the impression that you wish to prepare the minimum of botany for the Minor examination—a desire which will probably land you in considerable difficulties in the examination-room. We do agree with you that the facilities for study are limited in Belfast.

73/5. *Larynx*.—Nursery Hair-lotion:—

Stavesacre-seeds in rough powder	3ij.
Acetic acid	3j.
Water	3xvj.

Boil for ten minutes in a covered vessel, set aside till cold, then add—

Rectified spirit	3ij.
Oil of geranium	mij.
Oil of lavender	mij.
Oil of lemon	miv.

Filter and add—

Glycerin	3j.
Water to	Oj.

68/25. *Carpet*.—It is hopeless to expect to restore to its former state a carpet on which paraffin has been spilt.

84/57. *W. T. C.*—Have you not misread the name of the disease? We do not recognise it.

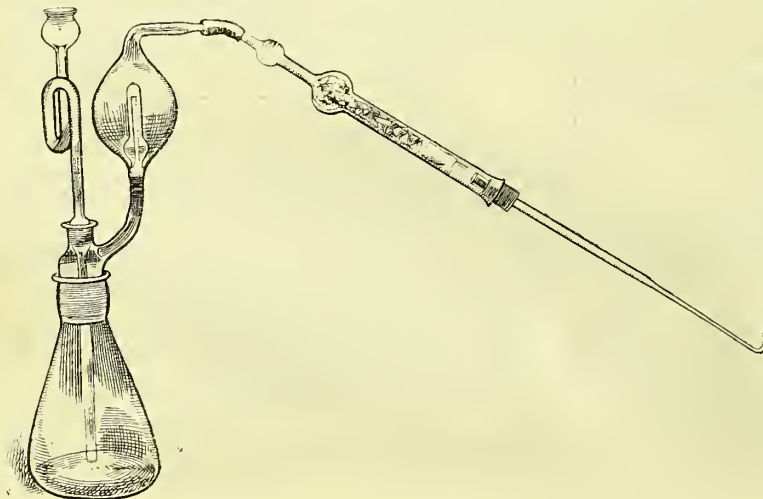
74/48. *Inquirer*.—After the powder of borax and sugar has gone damp, dry it and keep from the air.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

- 99/61. Who are the makers of "Pro Vac"?
- 100/38. Who supplies "Kola Nip" capsules?
- 101/16. Makers or sellers of hectograph frames?
- 108/3. Address of makers of mechanical mortars.
- 109/56. Makers of, or information about, "beer-tablets."
- 109/60. Address of makers of Hoult's chimney and flue cleaners.
- 102/61. Suppliers of "Rhizoline," a petroleum derivative for cleaning.
- 100/21. Makers of electric signs or blinking-eyes' sign to suit an optician?
- 98/37. Makers of tin boxes with a tin key which opens them two-thirds of the way round?
- 107/4. Maker of small wood boxes suitable for packing three dozen 6-oz. bottles.
- 101/72. Maker's name of a highly perfumed crimson fluid used for adding to the bath, and said to have beautifying properties.

New Apparatus for Marsh's Test.



This is an apparatus designed by Mr. Charles T. Tyrer, F.C.S., of the Stirling Chemical-works, Stratford, for Marsh's test for arsenic. It avoids the usual double-perforated cork, or I.R. bung which, used once for an arsenical article, may afterwards condemn an arsenic-free one. The flask is marked at 200 c.c. The hydrogen in its exit bubbles through a 10-per-cent solution of lead acetate in the bulb, so that sulphuretted hydrogens, if present, is absorbed, but arseniuretted and phosphoretted hydrogen are not. The gas then passes through the potash tube, so that it enters the exit tube quite dry. This tube is calibrated to a standard and invariable size in order that the reductions in two or more experiments may be comparable.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: March 21.

THE advance in cubebs is one of the principal features of the drug-markets this week, a considerable business having been done for American account. Balsam tolu has been in fair demand also for America. Rio ipecac. is still firmly held and unchanged. Holders of menthol are asking higher rates again, and there seems no prospect of lower prices until the autumn. Jalap has been in demand at the auction rates, whilst ergot is slightly easier. Shellac is slow of sale and easier. At the auctions of isinglass the demand was dragging, and lower prices prevailed. In essential oils higher prices are quoted from China for cassia, but there is no animation here; oil of star anise is firmer than it was last week; oil of lemon is cheaper owing to arrivals, and so is orange; bergamot unchanged. Cream of tartar is 1s. lower, and citric acid is $\frac{1}{4}$ d. cheaper in second hands, but makers are still very firm. Quinine is "off colour" this week owing to the heavy bark shipments during the first half of the month. The principal alterations of the week are as follows:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Cascara sagrada	Balsam tolu	Benzols	Ammonia sul-
Cubebs	Oil, anise star	Copper sul-	phate
Lime-juice	Saffron	phate	Cream of
Linseed		Ergot	tartar
Menthol		Oil, cocoaaut	Isinglass
Oil, cassia		Shellac	Oil, lemon
(c.i.f.)		Sugar of lead	Oil, winter-
Oil, cod-liver			green
Oil, juniper			Opium
Oil, linseed			Valerian
Orange-peel			

Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from March 14 to 20 (both inclusive):—Acid, tartaric (@ Bari), 52; arrowroot (@ Montserrat), 70, (St. Vin.) 6; caraway-seed, 100; castor oil, (Belg.) 28, (Ital.) 70; chamomiles, 15; cocaine (crude), 12; cod-liver oil, 269; cochineal (Maltese) 2; drugs (@ Trieste), 117 pkgs., (@ Palermo), 23 bags, (@ Hamburg) 24 pkgs.; galls (Pers.), 31; ginger (@ Bombay), 725; gum arabic, 66, (Pers.) 384 bags; gum tragacanth, 89 cases; juniper berries, 66; lemon-juice (@ Messina), 110 pipes; lime citrate, 195; lime-juice (W.I.), 8 barrels; lime oil (W.I.), 16; liquorice (@ Messina), 11 cases; liquorice paste, 200 cases; mandrake-root, 120; oil, castor (Ital.), 15; oils, essential (@ Messina), 301; oilbanum, 279; opium (@ Calcutta), 61, (@ Constantinople) 40 cases; orange-peel (@ Malta), 19; orris (Ital.), 90; quinine (@ Amsterdam), 10 cases; rose oil (E.I.), 8 pots; saffron, 1; scammonium (@ Smyrna), 5; senna (@ Bombay), 113, (@ Alexandria) 125 bls.; tamarinds (@ Antigua), 210; wax, bees' (@ Marseilles), 35, (E.I.) 10 cases, (Ital.) 10, (@ Hamburg) 54.

Japanese Duties on Alcohol and Tinctures.

The Japanese Government have laid a Bill before the Parliament now in session relating to the import-duty on alcohol and tinctures. Under the new law the import duty on alcohol will be 40 sen per litre instead of 250 per cent. *ad valorem*, which makes the duty a little higher than hitherto. The duty on tinctures under the present tariff is 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, but the recent increased importations of tinctures has attracted the attention of

the Government, and, in order to stimulate local production, the duty on tinctures, with exception of tr. opii, has been increased to 40 sen per litre. The above Bill has passed the Lower House, and will become law on October 1.

Sulphuric Acid in Japan.

Reports received in New York from Japan state that the consumption of 50° sulphuric acid in 1900 there amounted to fully 62,000,000 lbs. The bleaching-powder makers are credited with using 21,700,000 lbs., while the petroleum refiners consumed 18,600,000 lbs., the remaining 21,700,000 lbs. being taken by the Government, the artificial-mauure and other manufacturers. It is recorded that 3,100,000 lbs. were exported, some of this acid going to China. In the present year Japan expects to increase its production of sulphuric acid. This acid is made largely from native pyrites, as the brimstone production and imports are comparatively small.

Cartagena ipecac.

A subscriber at Cartagena (Colombia) sends us the following interesting information regarding Cartagena ipecacuanha. The collection of root, he says, takes place more or less all the year round on the immense area of land forming the basin of the Sinu and Atrato rivers. The digging takes place in a very rude and primitive manner, which accounts for the excess of dirt and foreign substances to be found among the drug. To this fact our correspondent attributes the low price (compared with Brazilian) that is paid on foreign markets. The gatherers, or *raicilleros*, as they are locally known, spend about a fortnight at intervals uprooting any plant similar in appearance to ipecac. The root is then conveyed to the villages, where it is sold to minor merchants, who dry it in the sun, half-free it from dirt and earth, and finally pack it for export in hemp bags. In this condition it reaches Europe, principally London and Hamburg. It is estimated that an average of about 100 cwt. per month passes through the port of Cartagena, and some 50 cwt. through Savanilla. The price paid by merchants in the villages of Sinu and Atrato is \$15 (Colombian currency) per lb., equivalent to 3s. By the time Cartagena and Barranquilla are reached the value has increased to about 4s. 6d. to 5s. per lb. The labourers who first gather the root earn about 15¢ in the two weeks, as during that period they can collect at least 100 lbs. of the drug.

Cyprus Trade.

A Colonial Office report on the trade of Cyprus for the year ending March 31, 1900, states that the experiments with regard to the obtaining of essences from the aromatic wild herbs growing on the State lauds have proved a commercial success, and the first shipment of 273 lbs. of oil of origanum found a ready market in London at 3s. per lb. The work is being continued, and the Director of Agriculture is preparing samples of other essential oils in order to ascertain whether there is a profitable market for them if produced in quantities. Attention has also been paid to the production of tanning material, and both shinia-leaves and sumac of good quality are produced in Cyprus. Improved olive-presses have been imported by the Agricultural Department for the better and more economical manufacture of olive oil. These have been sold to the growers on easy terms of payment, and the oil-industry, which has been relieved of the vexatious restrictions incident to the collection of tithe on olives, may now be considerably enlarged. The Cyprus sponge-fisheries are quite undeveloped, and the local Government is now in a position to offer advantageous terms to any undertaking having adequate capital to work the beds under proper regulations.

Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market-centres other than London.]

Business in the heavy-chemical market continues to be very quiet. On the Tyne and Clyde a rather better tone is apparent, and inquiries for early shipment are more numerous.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—The various products in this branch meet with continued steady inquiry, but there is no particular rush. Bicarbonate of soda is particularly in good request, and is a trifle scarce.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA keeps on the easy side, and business passing is not of much moment. Nearest values are about as follows:—Beckton, 117.; Beckton terms, 107. 10s.; London, 107. 12s. 6d.; Leith and Hull, 107. 12s. 6d. to 107. 15s.

LEAD PRODUCTS are easier in tone, and are now offered at somewhat lower rates. Sugar of lead, white, 247. per ton, less 2½ per cent., Glasgow. Sugar of lead, brown, 197. 10s. to 197. 15s. per ton, less 2½ per cent., Glasgow. Nitrate of lead 237. 10s. to 247. per ton, less 2½ per cent., Glasgow.

SULPHATE OF COPPER continues very quiet, with quotations nominally 237. 15s. and 257. for Liverpool and Anchor, but lower figures are not improbable.

PHOSPHORUS.—Moving steadily at unchanged rates. Wedges, 2s. per lb.; sticks, 2s. 1d. per lb.; amorphous, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 7d. per lb.

OIL, WINTERGREEN.—The c.i.f. quotation has been reduced to 5s. 6d. per lb., for pure.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—Lemon is not so firm as it was, probably owing to arrivals. Pure oil is now obtainable at 4s. 1d. to 4s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. Bergamot is quoted 10s. 6d., c.i.f., and sweet orange 6s. 6d.

OILS, FIXED.—Linseed dearer, at 24s. 3d. per cwt. for pipes or barrels, landed terms. Rape steady, at 26s. 6d. for refined. Cotton-seed firm, at 20s. to 20s. 6d. for refined in ordinary casks. Ceylon cocoanut, in pipes, 26s., and Cochin 30s.; fine Lagos palm, 26s. Turpentine steady, at 27s. 1½d. spot for American. Petroleum unchanged.

OPIUM.—Persian is very quiet; for arrival lower prices have been paid for April shipment; fine is quoted 13s. 6d. nominally, on the spot. A fair business has been done in manufacturing and druggists' opium, the latter being quoted 9s. to 9s. 3d. per lb., spot. Soft-shipping is quoted 11s. 6d. to 13s. 3d.—the latter figure for fine selected.

SMYRNA, March 8.—The weak holders have reduced their prices owing to absence of demand; they have been obliged to accept 9s. per lb., f.o.b., for 15 cases current talequale for American buyers. Prices for other grades have declined in proportion, and little business has been done. The sales amount to 17 cases only, which fact has astonished native dealers, who had anticipated a large demand from the consuming markets at the lower terms. The arrivals to date amount to 3,730 cases, against 2,501 cases at the corresponding period of last year.

SMYRNA, March 15.—An American buyer purchased 60 cases of current qualities yesterday, at the further decline of 8s. 10d. per lb., f.o.b. To-day, again, further buyers have come forward and purchased another 100 cases, at the still further reduction of 8s. 8d. to 9s., as to quality and condition.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 16.—The past week has closed with a flat market, and sales amount to 30 cases "druggists" at 8s. 9d. to 8s. 10d. per lb., f.o.b. News from the interior continues very favourable for the crop.

ORANGE-PEEL.—Fine bright strip of new crop has been sold up to 9d. per lb.

ORRIS.—Verona is quoted at 20s. 6d. per cwt., c. and f., for bold, 19s. 9d. for small, and 17s. 6d. for natural.

PODOPHYLLUM-ROOT.—The s.s. *America*, from Baltimore, has arrived in London with 120 bags. The market is slow of sale, one holder asking 23s. per cwt. net on the spot.

QUININE.—The comparatively heavy shipments of cinchona from Java for the first half of March have had a depressing effect on the speculative market this week, and no business of consequence is reported. The spot price for good German brands of sulphate in second-hands has dropped to 1s. 3d., but the small sales have chiefly been for August delivery at from 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 3¾d., with sellers to-day at the inside figure. Howards' advanced their quotation last week to 1s. 8d. for 1,000-oz. lots in vials. Amsterdam also advanced their quotation to 1s. 4½d.

SAFFRON.—Prices have advanced 3 pesetas in Spain, and importers now quote 23s. 6d. per lb. net for Valencia of B.P. quality, and fair (guaranteed genuine), 26s. net.

The exports from Spain for the twelve months ended December were:—

	1900	1899	1898
Kilos.	97,008	71,781	131,330

SENEGA.—Business has been done this week at 1s. 8d. per lb., spot.

SHELLAC.—In auction, on Tuesday, the small supply of 315 cases was offered, of which 178 cases were sold partly at easier rates, fair second orange TN being now quoted 59s. and A C Garnet, 63s. The following prices were paid:—Second orange, ordinary broken dull, 57s. to 58s., and low blocky resinous, 49s.; Garnet, weak Rangoon, 57s. (five cases); Button: 64 cases sold partly without reserve at 54s. to 60s. for blocky firsts in circle to matted firsts. Privately trade demand is very quiet, and speculation is absent.

SPICES still remain a quiet market. At auction on Wednesday all the parcels of Cochin *Ginger* were bought in, small-cut at 45s., medium and small at 48s., washed rough at 33s. to 38s., and Calicut brown rough at 38s. per cwt. African was bought in at 35s. per cwt. Jamaica sold well: ordinary dull at 35s. to 38s., small washed at 40s. 6d. to 41s., and fair at 44s. to 45s. per cwt. Zanzibar *Cloves* are lower, at 4½d. per lb. for June-August delivery. Penang sold at

5½d. to 6d. per lb. for dark, and at 7½d. for good bright. *Capsicums* were bought in at 25s. to 30s. per cwt. for ordinary East India. Japan *Chillies*, bold, having the character of capsicums, were bought in at 40s. per cwt. *Pimento* quiet; a few lots sold, fair at 2½d. and good at 2¾d. per lb. *Mace* sold at 1s. 2½d. per lb. for pickings, middling red Penang being bought in 1s. 6d. per lb. *Nutmegs* were slightly dearer for West India. *China Cinnamon* was bought in at 30s. and *Cassia-chips* at 40s. per cwt. *Cinnamon* pieces sold at 8½d. and quillings at 6d. per lb., chips being bought in at 4d. per lb. *Pepper* quiet but steady, Singapore black is selling at 6½d. per lb. on the spot and at 6½d. to 6¾d. to arrive, according to position. Singapore white is worth 8½d. on the spot, and Penang 8¾d. per lb.

STORAX.—Quotations from Trieste are lower, 63s. per cwt., c. and f., being quoted for liquid, in barrels, and 65s. for tins, in cases.

VALERIAN is offering at still cheaper rates—viz. 23s. 6d., c.i.f.

WAX, BEES'.—The exports from the ports of Ambriz, Loanda, Bengula, and Mossamedes (Province of Angola) during 1899 amounted to 383,172 kilos., or a decrease of 129,554 kilos. as compared with the previous year.

Coming Events.

Monday, March 25.

Wolverhampton and District Chemists' Association, Star and Garter Hotel, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, at 8 P.M. "Notes on Dispensing Solutions," by Mr. H. Forster.

Tuesday, March 26.

Royal Photographic Society, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. J. H. A. Baugh on "Some Improvements in Optical Projection."

Mineral-water Bottle Exchange and Trade Protection Society. Annual dinner at the Hotel Cecil at 5.30.

Bradford and District Chemists' Association, County Restaurant, at 9 P.M. Paper by Mr. W. R. Black.

Wednesday, March 27.

Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association, St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Ludgate Circus, E.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. Miller and other members will read some pharmacy notes.

Glasgow Chemists' and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association. Closing conversation.

Glasgow Assistants' and Apprentices' Association. Annual supper in the Royal Restaurant, West Nile Street, at 9 P.M. Tickets, price 5s., may be had at the Pharmacy Schools or from Mr. J. P. Gilmour, Victoria Infirmary.

Thursday, March 28.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, annual dinner at the Holborn Restaurant at 8 P.M. Tickets, 5s. each, can be had from Mr. J. Evans, Secretary of the Dinner Committee, 27 Monkton Street, Kennington Road, S.E.

Friday, March 29.

Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 9 P.M. Lord Rayleigh on "Polish."

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, at 9.15 P.M. "Life-history of Plants," by Mr. N. B. Cowie.

Tuesday, April 2.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association. Dinner at Kennaway's Rooms, Union Street.

WEAK QUININE WINE.—At Chippenham on March 22, O. J. Burnett, a grocer, was fined 1l. and 8s. costs under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for selling quinine wine containing only 12 gr. of quinine in the pint.

The new edition of the "Art of Dispensing" is nearly twice the size of previous editions, the entire work having been "recast," as they say on the other side. It contains so much practical matter on dispensing and dispensing difficulties that its possession seems to be almost a necessity among pharmacists and students. We have already spoken in terms of high commendation of this work, and this last revision increases its claims upon our favour.—*Pharmaceutical Era* (New York).